



CLEAR WAY FOR METRO ROUTE

Report by Jamie Brassington

WORK has begun to clear overgrowth from a derelict railway line which will become a new route for the Midland Metro tram service.

The route will be built between Wednesbury and Brierley Hill's Merry Hill shopping centre on the former South Staffordshire Railway line, which closed to passengers in the 1960s.

Workers subcontracted by Midland Metro Alliance (MMA) have been clearing the tracks of plants and trees so structural and environmental surveys can be carried out.

Community leaders say the development will create 'huge opportunities' for jobs and tourism in the Black Country.

The work will finally link the major Black Country shopping centre with the rest of the region via rail. The route will run from the Waterfront at Brierley Hill, passing Dudley Castle and on to link up with the existing Wolverhampton to Birmingham line at Wednesbury Great Western Street.

MMA, who are working on behalf of the new West Midlands Combined Authority, expect work on the route to begin in 2019 and it will be open for passengers by 2023.

MMA will have to submit a business case to the Department for Communities and Local Government before the long-awaited Dudley link can finally become a reality.

Partners

It is anticipated that funds will come from the Government and the West Midlands Combined Authority, which includes Birmingham and the Black Country local authorities.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, Dudley's cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise, said: "We've been working hard with partners to make this project happen as we are set to benefit significantly when the Metro rolls in. The improved transport links will create huge opportunities for jobs and tourism in the area. It's great to see the project moving in the right direction and a commitment from all involved."

Alejandro Moreno, MMA Director, said: "We are very excited to begin work on this key route but before we can begin construction, we do need to carry out some preparatory work in order to decide what further works are required to prepare for construction."

In the long term, the authority says the new route will also provide a direct link to the HS2 high speed rail hub and Birmingham Airport.

SUPERPUP CLARK WAS ABANDONED IN PHONE BOX



The puppy found in a Quinton phone box has been named after Clark Kent who would emerge from phone boxes ready to fight evil as Superman

AN APPEAL for information has been launched after a puppy was found abandoned inside a phone box.

The one-year-old Staffordshire bull terrier was found chained up in Quinton Road West, Quinton, on January 17.

The puppy has now been named Clark after Clark Kent who would emerge from phone boxes ready to fight evil as Superman.

Clark has even been given a new Superman collar.

A member of the public was alerted to Clark's plight after hearing the pup whimpering from inside the phone box.

RSPCA inspector Jonathan Ratcliffe said: "Physically the dog is OK. He was understandably stressed out from being abandoned."

"We have no idea where he came from as he was not microchipped and we don't know how long he was there for. He was lucky as it is cold and he didn't have any food or water. Because he was found in a phone box, we have

decided to call him Clark after Clark Kent. He looks the part too as we have found a Superman collar for him. He's definitely our brave superdog.

"If no owner comes forward then we will hopefully be able to find him a loving new home."

Anyone who has any information about how Clark came to be abandoned can contact the RSPCA in complete confidence on 0300 123 8018.

DEATH

Inquest has opened on fatal car incident

AN INQUEST has opened on a 20-year-old woman who fell from a bonnet of a car being driven around a car park in Dudley. Eleanor Underhill, from Shearwater Drive, Brierley Hill, died on January 3, eight days after sustaining head injuries in the incident on Boxing Day on the car park of the Tesco Extra, at Burnt Tree, at around 10.30pm.

A man and a woman aged 18, and a 19-year-old man, all from Stourbridge, have all been bailed until March 29.

Senior Coroner Zafar Siddique adjourned the inquest.

ACCIDENT

Motorcyclist hurt in multi-vehicle crash

A MOTORCYCLIST was taken to hospital after he was in a collision involving a car and a lorry in Pensnett.

The crash happened on the High Street at around 9.40am on Monday.

The 24-year-old man suffered injuries to his knee and pelvis, and was taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

A spokesman for West Midlands Ambulance Service said: "We received a call at 9.40am to a collision on Pensnett High Street outside St Mark's Church of England Primary School.

MURDER

Bus passenger is stabbed to death

A MAN from the Black Country was stabbed to death on a night bus in Birmingham after a row with a fellow passenger.

West Midlands Police said CCTV shows the 35-year-old victim was seen to exchange words with another passenger, who then pulled out a knife and stabbed him several times in the stomach before fleeing the 11A outer circle bus in Rookery Lane, Handsworth. It happened at around 10.40pm on Monday. The knifeman is described as a black man, aged around 25, about 5ft 10in tall, with short dread-locked hair, and was wearing a padded jacket, headphones and a black baseball cap.

INSIDE

FIZZOGS TO BITE THE BIG APPLE



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EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Nicola Cope
Tel: 01902 319573
E-mail: nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Colin Bailey
Tel: 01902 313131 ext 3731
E-mail: colin.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Liz Barratt
Tel: 01384 353244
E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Museum lands £129k grant for mine



Racecourse Colliery

A COLLIERY will be brought to life after the Black Country Living Museum landed a £129,000 grant.

The Racecourse Colliery was built at the Tipton Road attraction as a typical Black Country colliery. It was named after the 1846 Dudley Racecourse which was originally on the site.

The grant from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement will allow visitors to be able to see the colliery in action. The restoration work will begin next month and should be

complete by February next year. It will include a repair to the tub tramway so that coal can be transferred by pit pony, installation of atmospheric lighting, and the restoration of a pit cage which shows how miners were lowered into the shaft. Costumed characters will tell the stories of those who worked in the mining industry.

The funding has been awarded to 39 museums across the country. The assessment panel said that they were particularly impressed by the museum's visitor numbers and agreed that the

planned renovations would genuinely increase the amount of time visitors spend on site.

The museum's deputy chief Jonathan Wilson said: "The completion of this project will mean the museum is able to provide an immersive and thought-provoking experience for our visitors and give them a real sense of what day-to-day life was like for the people and animals working above a Black Country mine."

The museum also has multi-million pound plans to create a 1960s town.

Call for probe into poor GCSE results of schools

DUDLEY schools are among the worst in the country for GCSE results.

The borough is ranked 128th out of 152 local authority areas, based on GCSE results from A* to G across eight subjects. Sandwell was the only Black Country borough to be ranked lower.

This new 'Attainment 8 measure' is one of two new ways schools are judged. Dudley is 63rd on a list showing the rate of schools under-performing based on their 'Progress 8' score. This looks at pupils' progress throughout secondary school.

A total of 55.7 per cent of pupils in Dudley are achieving A* to C in both English and maths.

The figures show that, over all, one in ten schools are under-performing.

Councillor Nicolas Barlow, who represents the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town ward, said: "There is a cause for concern. We need to look at what the underlying factors are and put whatever support mechanisms we have to put them in place."

"The last thing we want is for those schools to become failing and to go into special measures."

Challenging

"More often than not staff have to work in very challenging circumstances."

The top two performing schools in the borough measured against Attainment 8 are Old Swinford Hospital and Redhill School and Specialist Language College, both in Stourbridge.

They were followed by the Bishop Milner Catholic College and The Dormston School, in Dudley and The Kingswinford School & Science College.

Schools had previously been rated on the number of pupils achieving five A* to C GCSEs, including English and maths.

Walsall was ranked 123rd, Wolverhampton 127th, and Sandwell came 147th.

The best performing school in Sandwell was Sandwell Academy in West Bromwich. Its Attainment 8 score was 50.5 and 60 per cent of pupils achieved A* to C in both English and maths. But the poor performance across the borough was such that despite its score Sandwell Academy would not have entered the top five in any of the other Black Country boroughs

Trump that – Fizzogs on way to USA



Internet stars the Dancing Grannies, created by Black Country troupe the Fizzogs, are to perform in New York

START spreading the news – the Dancing Grannies have decided to have a rest from the Edinburgh Fringe this year and pop over to the Big Apple instead.

The Grannies, also known as Black Country comedy act the Fizzogs, will jet across the pond in the summer to strut their stuff on the streets of New York city.

The move follows numerous requests from American fans who are among more than 300 million people who have viewed the Grannies' dance routines on social media.

Now the Fizzogs are looking for sponsorship to help fund the trip.

Member Deb Nicholls said: "The plan is to take America by storm. We aim to flashmob in New York this summer. It'll cost an arm and a leg to get there so we are looking for sponsorship. If there are any potential sponsors out there and you feel The Dancing Grannies need support, then get in touch with us."

The Fizzogs have already been booked to perform their routines

at the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix in April. That opportunity arose after the performers caught the eye of a talent scout from the Middle East at the Edinburgh Fringe last summer.

Their show, Suck It And See, is currently touring with performances at Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, on February 4; Core Theatre, Solihull, on March 4; and the Atrix Theatre, Bromsgrove, on March 11. Email info@thefizzogs.com or visit www.thefizzogs.com

Lye balti event in extended Black Country festival plan

THE Black Country Festival will become bigger and better under agreed plans to invest £200,000 in the event and spread it out across all four authority areas.

The three-year scheme will see a Lye-based Balti Festival, more Black Country Beer Festivals and themed night and day events.

The plan, which will see three people employed to focus on the event's expansion, will begin this year. It was approved at yesterday's Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership meeting.

The festival, which started in 2014, celebrates the region's best traditions and attractions during a variety of events held on and around Black Country Day on July 14.

All this has been achieved largely through volunteers, but by setting a three-year budget of £200,000, three paid staff could be employed to help expand the festival.

Co-organiser of the festival, Steve Edwards, said: "Over the last three years the festival has been expanding, but to have help through the LEP to make it even bigger will be absolutely fantastic."

"It started in Dudley, but every year we've added events in neighbouring boroughs, and we would like to add even more."

Businesses will be encouraged to sponsor the event in order to raise money, while the Black Country Consortium will also work with Dudley Arts Council to help identify sources of funding.

£125k blueprint to revamp towpaths

A PROJECT encouraging walking and cycling in Dudley is to get a £125,000 boost.

Dudley Council will be improving canal towpaths from Seven Dwellings Bridge to Black Delph Bridge, in Brierley Hill, which links to the National Cycle Network.

It follows work last year costing £460,000 to make similar improvements to towpaths between Kinner Street Basin, in Wordsley, Buckpool Nature Reserve and The Dell Stadium in Pensnett.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We are delighted to be involved in these additional improvements to local canal towpaths, which will help people to walk and cycle more often."

City rugby centre work is on target

A NEW rugby union centre in Edgbaston is on target for completion in late 2017. Persimmon Homes Central with Bournville Rugby Club is developing the facility on the former Avery and M&B recreation grounds near the Avery Fields homes development, City Road.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hippodrome 'fall back' withdrawn

A 'FALL back' planning application to 'potentially' demolish the town's Hippodrome has been withdrawn by Dudley Council.

The application was submitted in case terms agreed between the authority and the campaigners who took over ownership of the Castle Hill landmark were not met.

Planning and development boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said it was being withdrawn after Black Country Hippodrome Ltd voiced concerns it 'could have a detrimental effect on potential funding'.

Care home can build extension

A CARE home has had plans approved to build an extension which would create five extra bedrooms.

The extension would be made at Castle View Residential Home located on Priory Road, Dudley.

Dudley Council gave approval to the plans but said that the development should begin before December 22, 2019.

The extension would bring the amount of bedrooms at the property from 11 to 16 in total.

It will be built to two-stories and en suites will be provided.

Revamp for adult education centre

A REFURBISHED higher education centre will be officially opened at Halesowen College on Saturday.

It comes as the number of adults wanting to pursue a university level course has increased in recent years. They now take an Access to Higher Education course at the college.

The newly refurbished Access Centre will be officially opened at 11am by Camilla Phillips MBE, a community champion and founder of the Hope Centre in Halesowen.

Festival of Glass to be held this summer

THE International Festival of Glass will return to Stourbridge this summer. It will take place from August 25 to 28 at the Ruskin Glass Centre and Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley.

A series of lectures, workshops, exhibitions, taster sessions and family activities will be available. Exhibitions, workshops and entertainment will be offered at several venues within the town's Glass Quarter.

Plans are being made and visit www.ifg.org.uk for further details.

New Star PR boss

A NEW director has been appointed to lead Star Public Relations, which has been launched by Midland News Association, the parent company of the Express & Star and The Chronicle. Sundee Sehijpal joins Star Public Relations with 14 years of media experience.

Pub boss in court after dead rats are found in cellar

THE boss at a pub where dead rats were found in a filthy cellar by hygiene inspectors has been handed a £1,900 court bill.

Holes were found where rodents had gnawed through doors into the cellar where kegs of beer are stored at Picks in Halesowen town centre, a court heard. Pub boss Jennifer Austin pleaded guilty to failing to comply with provision concerning food safety and hygiene at the High Street bar.

She told the court that she had trapped a nerve in her back and that was why cleanliness levels had dropped at the time of the inspection.

Prosecutor Saima Ahmed Aziz told Wolverhampton Magistrates Court: "On February 24 last year a consumer safety team attended to carry out a routine health and safety inspection. They entered the cellar of the premises and found a number of contraventions. There were two dead rats and droppings on the floor."

There were holes in the doors where the rats got in. Austin was ordered to get the cellar cleaned up. Return visits were made on February 26 and 29, when the problems had been resolved.

Austin, of High Street, Halesowen, said: "At the time the inspectors came I had trapped a nerve in my back from lifting a barrel. It's all been cleaned up. The pub is not making a lot of money, we just about keep our heads above water."

Magistrates fined her £535, ordered her to pay £1367.37 and a victim surcharge of £53, bringing the total £1,955.37.

Going under to sing in the cavern

A CHOIR will be singing in the deepest heart of the Black Country this summer – underground in a cavern.

Following a similar popular concert a few years ago, Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir is returning to sing in the aptly-named Singing Cavern under Dudley's Castle Hill on July 8.

Audience members will be transported from The Portal, off Birmingham New Road, by Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust boats for the hour-long concert in the unique location with its famous acoustics.

The boat departs at 7pm and will return at around 9pm. Tickets are £11.50 and are available at dudleycanaltrust.org.uk/trip/cradley-heath-male-voice-choir/ or by calling 0121 557 6265.

Classic car show returns to NEC

BIRMINGHAM NEC will host the UK's fastest growing classic car event from March 31 to April 2.

More than 19,000 enthusiasts attended last year's Practical Classics Classic Car and Restoration Show.

Ted's sweet recipes kept tradition alive



Ted Gray with his famous herbal tablets

HIS boiled sweets had not changed in almost 200 years and, some would tease him, neither had his office.

Ted Gray, who has died aged 81, was famous for sticking to traditional methods. When Edward Gray's of Dudley set up its own website seven years ago, it did not affect the way he worked as he continued to enter orders into enormous handwritten ledgers in his chaotic, paper-strewn office.

Tributes have poured in to the man who, with his sister Betty Guest, ran the business for nearly half a century following the death of their father,

also Ted, in the 1960s. Ted junior had worked at the North Street factory, started by his grandfather, John Gray, in 1826, since he was 15 and continued to drive to the office in his beloved Jag every day until 2012.

His daughter, Julie Healy, 53, said: "He was very proud of the business, especially the herbal tablets. Only certain family members know the recipe. He mixed the ingredients himself to keep it secret. He still had an old-fashioned way of doing things. We only recently got a laptop."

Mr Gray started at the factory as

a sugar boiler when he left school, returning after three years' National Service in the RAF, to become a delivery driver, eventually taking over the reins in his 30s with Betty, now 88, who still works at the firm.

Despite being a wealthy man, he remained true to his Black Country roots and loved nothing better in his spare time than playing snooker at the Royal British Legion Club in Hall Street, Dudley. The father of four died in his sleep after suffering for some years from hydrocephalus and had moved to a care home.

MP wants review of how Sandwell Council is run

A BLACK Country MP has called for a Government review of how Sandwell Council is run after a report alleged fraud and misconduct.

A report to the council's audit committee outlined allegations of council houses being given to relatives of Oldbury's Councillor Mahboob Hussain, the council's former deputy leader.

It highlighted land deals concerning compulsory purchase orders involving Mr Hussain and Councillor Babu Bawa.

Both matters have been referred to West Midlands Police.

Halesowen & Rowley Regis MP James Morris said he was 'saddened' by the allegations and has demanded an independent review into the governance of the authority.

In a letter to Local Government Secretary Sajid Javid, Mr Morris wrote that the situation with Sandwell Council had 'reached critical point'.

"Many residents of Sandwell, and myself, have lost faith and trust in the council, and feel that urgent intervention is required. The council tax payers of Sandwell deserve much more than this."

Trust

Mr Morris asks Mr Javid 'to commission an independent review' of the council with a view to making 'a series of recommendations for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the council'. He added that the review would help to restore trust.

Mr Hussain has accused the council of attempting to smear his character and said: "I will co-operate fully with any investigation as I have done nothing wrong."

Council leader Councillor Steve Eling said he was surprised not to have been contacted directly by Mr Morris. He said: "The fact the council has published the outcome of these investigations and is reporting them to our audit committee, which is open to the public and media, shows that our governance systems are robust and working as they should be."

Council chief executive Jan Britton said: "The council has carried out exhaustive internal investigations into these matters. These were allegations made publicly."

"We have investigated them thoroughly and, where appropriate, we have referred them to the police or the council's monitoring officer."

Mayor goes extra mile for charities



Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif took part in a seven-mile walk to raise money for charities

THE Mayor of Dudley took part in a seven-mile walk in Stourbridge to raise money for the group of charities he is helping during his year in office.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif set off from the Bonded Warehouse in Stourbridge on Sunday morning, leading a walk along the canal to the Prestwood area and back again.

Money raised by the sponsored walk will be divided between

the three charities supported by the mayor – the Friends of Alfie Johnson, Dudley CIL (Centre for Inclusive Living) and the Dudley branch of Diabetes UK.

Friends of Alfie Johnson is committed to helping children with disabilities in the Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton. For more information see the friendsofalfiejohnson.org.uk website.

Dudley CIL is an organisation

run by and for disabled people of all ages, providing information and support (www.dudleycil.org.uk).

Diabetes UK supports those living with diabetes, helps prevention of diabetes and backs research into the illness. Diabetes UK's mission is that by bringing people together to work in partnership, they will support those living with diabetes (www.diabetes.org.uk).



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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



ANYONE taking bets on President Trump not completing his first four-year term? I'm not talking about assassination or impeachment but Trump simply getting fed up. Today, he is the star of the world. Tomorrow he will discover how little power he actually has, how much money he is losing, how he and his family's every move and every careless word or Tweet is dogged by the press and social media.

A READER asks, if somebody takes a pot-shot at President Trump, will the bodyguards shout: "Donald, duck!"

THAT great social observer Will Self suggests waspishly that the Army should be scrapped and replaced by giving weapons and training to all 30 million British adults. An assault rifle in every home. What could possibly go wrong?



YOU have probably spotted the tiny problem with the statue of Cilla Black unveiled in Liverpool. In a classic example of the Emperor's new clothes, local people applauded the unveiling without daring to point out that it doesn't look even vaguely like Cilla.

READERS may be reminded of the celebrated "black Diana," the statue of the princess in black granite and unveiled in 2000. It looks nothing like Princess Di but bears a passing resemblance to Denis Norden without his specs. It stands outside a funeral directors in Walsall. Unlike the Scousers, Walsall folk have never kidded themselves it's a good likeness. "Demoniac," was one Facebook user's opinion.

ROLF Harris is on trial for sex crimes with the jury told on day one of his previous convictions. He is giving evidence via a video link from prison. If one trial can begin with total disclosure, why can't they all? Many are a legal game where everyone in court, except the jury, knows the defendant is a serial villain with a criminal record, but all conspire to pretend it's the first time they've seen him.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Unemployment is at lowest for ten years

UNEMPLOYMENT in Dudley followed the national trend with numbers claiming benefits for being out of work down last month.

Across the UK unemployment has plunged to its lowest total for more than a decade but the number in work has also fallen.

The jobless total was 1.6 million in the quarter to November, down by 52,000 on the previous three months to

its lowest since early 2006. In the West Midlands unemployment fell by 7,000 to 161,000, partly due to seasonal recruitment at shops and delivery companies in the run-up to Christmas.

The number claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and other unemployment benefits was down by 35 in Dudley to 5,595.

Dudley's Councillor Hilary Bills said: "If people are finding jobs that is good news. If it means that they can go on to support themselves and their families then I am happy with that. It's a positive for the region."

Change

Across the West Midlands the count was down by 1,310 to 80,480 with the biggest change in Wolverhampton, where the number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits fell to 6,430, down by 135 from November's figure.

In Sandwell it was down 40 to 7,075. South Staffordshire saw a fall of 10 to 685 but in Wyre Forest, includ-

By John Corser

ing Kidderminster, there was a rise of 10 to 740.

The UK now has one of the lowest jobless rates in Europe, at 4.8 per cent, according to the latest data from the Office for National Statistics, but the number in work fell by 9,000 to 31.8 million.

In the West Midlands the number in work was up 9,000 to 2.7 million. The claimant count fell by 10,100 last month to 797,800, the lowest since last September, although it increased by 600 among women.

The figures differ because not everyone classed as unemployed is eligible to claim benefits such as Jobseeker's Allowance.

Employment Minister Damian Hinds said: "It's good news in the West Midlands where there's a near record of 2.71 million people in work."

"We have made real progress creating a strong economy and helping more people into work."

A different sort of tonic



Will Stephenson (left), and Simon Dunne at the pharmacy

IT used to dispense prescriptions – but a former pharmacy in the Black Country will now be serving up a different kind of tonic as it is on the way to being transformed into a microbar and cafe.

School friends Simon Dunne, of Oldbury, and Will Stephenson, from Halesowen, are aiming to be pulling pints in their new venture, aptly named The Old Dispensary, on Causeway Green Road in Oldbury by the middle of February.

It comes after planning permission was granted in February last year after the building was empty for more than a year.

Mr Dunne says he hopes it will be a 'place for all the community'.

He explained: "We have got a lovely sized garden out the back which will have a smoking shelter there."

"In the day time we will hope to serve croissants and cakes so that families can come in and then from midday onwards we will be serving drinks."

"We want to be a family friendly place for all the community."

The bar will be able to serve up to around 100 people.

Concern at mutton dressed as goat

CHECKS on meat and dishes claiming to contain goat meat showed more than half were actually lamb or mutton, say Sandwell Council's trading standards team.

Trading standards officers visited takeaways, butchers' shops, supermarkets and restaurants selling goat meat and dishes.

Nineteen samples were taken of raw and frozen meat, curries and other dishes and 11 of them were found to be mis-described – they actually contained lamb or mutton.

Substitution of one meat for another is a criminal offence under Section 14 of the Food Safety Act 1990. The offence is fraud by deceiving a consumer into buying something they did not want or expect. By substituting goat for often cheaper meat, the offence also creates unfair competition.

Officers may face fines of up to £20,000 and/or imprisonment for up to six months if they are prosecuted in a magistrates court.

Trading Standards investigations into the offences are continuing.

Cabinet member for public health and protection, Councillor Preet Gill said: "Clearly it's unacceptable that our officers have found businesses selling lamb and mutton as goat. It's important that consumers know exactly what they are purchasing so that they can make an informed choice about what they eat."

ADVERTISEMENT

Former midwife's smile reborn

'I'd grown tired of living my life around my teeth'

Former Dudley community midwife Vicki Ball, left, is full of smiles after getting new teeth and an implant solution to a long-standing stabilisation problem. 'I love my new teeth,' she says



MEETING Vicki Ball is all about the smiles – lots of them. She's generous with her compliments, can't wait for her next holiday adventure and has the most infectious of laughs.

Her company is light and she's gushing with the praise about her new look.

A retired community midwife who was based at the former Wordsley Hospital, the bubbly 60-something-year-old is quick to affirm: "I love my new teeth and they look natural, don't they?"

Adding: "You can't tell they're not my own," Vicki admits her smile has not always been

her favourite attribute. "I've always had trouble with my teeth; even as a young girl they crumbled and my gums used to bleed. Even though I was diligent about looking after them, they still let me down," she adds.

Two years ago, Vicki finally lost her remaining teeth. "I really don't know why my teeth were so bad, but I was the youngest of eight children and I understand my mother's priorities did not include teaching me how to brush my teeth. She had more pressing priorities of how she was going to put food on the table," Vicki recalls.

A teenager by the time she had her first tooth brush, she is convinced she couldn't

have done more to save her own teeth.

"For the last 18 months I've put up with ill-fitting and badly made dentures. My gums were always sore and the bottom denture was unstable."

Researching options

"My top teeth I could secure with a fixative, but for the bottom it was a waste of time – as soon as I had anything to eat the stability was over," says Vicki.

Her diet became restricted, avoiding beef and crispy fruits like apples.

Frustrated by the appearance and function of her teeth – they seemed to be set too far back, Vicki says – she started researching her options.

"I'd grown tired of living my whole life

around my teeth. I never really stopped going out, but when I did, I was always thinking ahead where I could go to take my teeth out. They were just so uncomfortable." A self-confessed lover of travel overseas – "it's my hobby" – Vicki saw an article in her local newspaper about Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) and his work at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.



North Street's dental implant surgeon, Dr Owain Rees (left) BDS, DGDIP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576 with principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353

"I'd seen a piece about suction dentures and implant retained dentures and there seemed to be a solution for me," she says.

After seeing Steven and implant surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDIP (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL), Vicki's treatment included two implants to stabilise a lower over denture and the prescribing of high quality traditional upper dentures to help support her facial

features. "From start to finish it took 14 weeks, but it was worth the wait. When I first saw my teeth in the mirror, I thought they looked just like real teeth and . . . they feel like my own teeth."

Such a relief

"My husband, Terry, couldn't believe they were so good. Not to have to keep thinking about my teeth when I'm out is such a relief," she says.

Steven says: "Mrs Ball needed dentures that would offer proper support to her facial features."

"These days the term 'facelift' dentures is banded about. The claim is spurious, but with the correct setting of teeth, the effect is to lift the facial structures in the same way natural healthy gums and teeth support tissues and muscles. I'm very please to have been part of giving a new birth the Vicki's smile."

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Growing Bevan in move across Black Country

HALESOWEN transport services company The Bevan Group has opened its new headquarters in Wednesbury.

The opening of the new site on the Wednesbury One industrial estate in December capped the company's 40th year in business and came after a £500,000 refit. The group has grown to employ more than 300 people, 180 of them at its previous head office in Halesowen and at a second base in Oldbury.

The new base in Wednesbury includes a 17,000 sq ft factory and 5,000 sq ft of offices. The move was completed shortly before Christmas and the new site is located close to Junction 9 of the M6.

Growth within Bevan's aftercare division was the key driver behind the move to a new headquarters. Turnover for the aftercare operation, which maintains and repairs commercial vehicle bodies and ancillaries, has shot up from £1.3 million to £6.3m in just three years. This achievement, coupled with continued expansion within its rigid truck and van bodybuilding, graphics (vehicle livery) and passport (assistance with European whole vehicle type approval compliance) operations, saw Bevan claim 15th spot on a recent list of the Black Country's top 50 fastest-growing companies.

Bevan has retained the production facility in Amber Way, Halesowen, which had served as its head office since 2006 and is now undergoing a major facelift, as well as a second base in Blakeley Hall Road, Oldbury.

Portal art exhibition

DUDLEY Canal and Tunnel Trust is planning its first open art exhibition at The Portal, off Birmingham New Road, this summer.

The closing date for entries is June 30. To find out more call 0121 557 6265.

Council U-turn saves school crossing patrol wardens

Reunited with lost pet after 14 years



Rachel Wells is reunited with Tiger who has been living at the Black Country Living Museum, cared for by Roger Colbourne. THE purr-plexing origins of Tiger the cat, who for the past 14 years has made his home at the Black Country Living Museum, have been discovered.

A trip to the vet's revealed that the mysterious tabby is the missing pet of veterinary nurse Rachel Wells. Tiger, previously known as Snitch, is a long time resident in the grounds of the open air attraction off Tipton Road.

Roger Colbourne, who has worked

at the museum for 27 years, has looked after Tiger but a microchip scan revealed his owner was Rachel, 34, who now lives near to the museum and works at White Cross Vets in Wolverhampton.

She said: "Tiger was 18 months old when he went to play out 14 years ago but he never returned. I spent months putting up posters and trying to find him. Each time I moved house I always

updated my contact details on his microchip. When he finally reappeared after all these years I couldn't believe it."

Roger, 70, said: "I have grown extremely close to Tiger and can't imagine life without his companionship."

Seeing the bond between Tiger and Roger, Rachel has decided to register the cat's chip to Roger, so the cat can stay at the museum.

CONTROVERSIAL plans to axe funding for school crossing patrols in Dudley have been ditched in a major U-turn by council chiefs.

Schools had been facing having to pay for school crossing patrols themselves. But overwhelming opposition, including a 20,000 strong-petition and demonstrations has now forced a rethink.

The council has confirmed it would continue to fund the service for 2017/18, a decision which campaigners have hailed as down to 'the power of the people'.

The authority had described it as 'a non-statutory service' and argued that by no longer funding the wardens it would save £395,000. The council claimed that the service was costing around £30 per pupil.

A consultation with the 60 schools which currently use service was undertaken in October and November.

The results were due to go to a scrutiny committee on January 30, but following the strong feedback from the public the council decided to change its proposal.

Support

In total there are 63 wardens, and a further 14 on standby who can be stationed at any of the borough's 81 sites.

The council says consultation with schools and all political groups will continue, to see how the service can be made sustainable in the long term.

The revised proposal to fund wardens for another year will go to scrutiny later in the year.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We have listened to concerns and have found a way to fund the service for at least a further year as part of a healthy schools initiative."

Meeting will discuss £1.5m park scheme

A POTENTIAL £1.5 million cash injection to improve a Black Country park will be discussed during a public meeting next week.

The Friends of Stevens Park hope the community asset will be in line for a Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund grant. Dudley Council is working with the group on the bid.

The friends group will meet at the White House on Park Road on Tuesday, at 7pm. All members of the local community are welcome.

The second stage is set to be submitted in February next year, once a feasibility study has been developed. If successful, the money could be used for a number of improvements around the park.

The community organisation Muddle Together CIC (Community Interest Company) is also working with the council on the bid to revamp the park.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Sweet man who put his town on the map

YOU would need a heart of stone not to laugh at Amber Rudd's speech to the Conservative Party conference in Birmingham last year being recorded by West Midlands Police as a 'hate incident'.

Apparently, a professor of physics called Joshua Silver – sounds more like he should be in Pirates of the Caribbean to me – took offence at something the Home Secretary said and called the police. He hadn't actually heard the speech, but we don't want little details like that to get in the way of a bit of pompous virtue signalling, do we?

Anyway, the good news is that the crime rate is obviously so low in the West Midlands that the Old Bill found time to investigate. They concluded that no crime had been committed, which you might think might be the end of the matter, but in the strange world of "hate" legislation it is never that simple. If you're found guilty it's a crime, but if you're innocent it is recorded as a "hate incident".

This sort of thing would normally make me livid. But this is the Home Secretary, the figurehead for the establishment which created all this nonsense. Poetic justice is the phrase which springs to mind.

BY the way, the definition of "hate crimes" on a poster in my local library includes "anything that is offensive to your family." I take it mother-in-law jokes are out, then?

MANY people in the Black Country will be saddened to hear of the death of Dudley confectioner Ted Gray, aged 81.

Ted, who worked full time until the age of 76, was one of the old school, a type of businessman you rarely find today. A small, quietly spoken man with a proper Black Country accent, he never had any big ambitions or grandiose expansion plans, he just liked sweets and wanted to carry on his family tradition. His tiny, beautifully chaotic office was stacked high with precarious piles of paper, the walls festooned with sepia pictures chronicling the company's history. He lived within walking distance of the factory.

As a journalist, I remember feeling a sense of frustration at this modest, unassuming man's reluctance to deliver any boastful soundbites that would make my job easier. Teddy Gray's shops were selling the classic sweets in jars long before it became fashionable, and even today there is something unmistakably welcoming about them that the new pretenders can't quite emulate.

It is often hard to explain to outsiders what makes the Black Country special, but this unassuming little man had it in spades.

World famous in Dudley, that's what he was. A proper Black Country man who wouldn't have had it any other way.



Baroness Heyhoe Flint collects her OBE in 2008



With her friend and former Wolves and England boss Graham Taylor



Heyhoe Flint in the World Cup winning year of 73

City ambassador and a sporting trailblazer

As tributes are paid following the death of Baroness Heyhoe Flint, **HEATHER LARGE** looks back on her life and legacy

SHE was known for being a proud Wulfrunian with a heart of gold and a trailblazer for women's sport.

But to her beloved football club, Baroness Heyhoe Flint will always be "Our Rachael – warm, witty, hugely competent and irreplaceable."

As Wolves mourn the loss of their vice-president tributes have flooded in from the world of sport for one of England's finest female cricketers. And there was an outpouring of grief from across Wolverhampton – the city she loved and called home.

Her son Ben says Wolverhampton and Wolves meant everything to the 77-year-old.

"She, the club and the city were intrinsically linked," he said.

Gruelling

Baroness Heyhoe Flint was still a familiar and much-loved face at Molineux up until her recent illness. She was a proud supporter of the club in continuing to take a keen interest in Wolves' charity and community work despite her own gruelling schedule.

"She went to every game when she was a director, home and away, rain or sleet, bottom of the table or top of the table. For 30 years it was the mainstay of her life," added Ben.

Wolves club secretary Richard Skirrow said: "We have lost a really special lady. I've known her well for over 20 years. You felt you knew her well from the first meeting as she was such a warm and engaging person. Rachael was a bundle of energy; tireless, always on the move and always, it seemed, happy."

"Her many achievements will be well documented and for her charity fundraising alone she should perhaps have been more highly decorated but, at Wolves, she'll just always be "our Rachael" – warm, witty, hugely competent and irreplaceable."



At the Molineux home of her beloved Wolves, where she served as vice president

Born on June 11 1939 to PE teachers Roma Crocker and Geoffrey Heyhoe, the former Wolverhampton Girls High School pupil excelled at sport from an early age and later taught PE. She went on to play a pivotal role in developing women's cricket, captaining England during a career which spanned two decades, and leading her country to victory in the 1973 World Cup.

During her first House of Lords speech in 2011, she said: "My challenges in sport began with garden cricket aged seven with my brother and his friends."

"I wasn't allowed to bat for three years because girls don't play cricket. When I did eventually get to bat, the boys couldn't get me out for three days, so in the middle of June they decided it was the football season."

It was while playing cricket that she became friends with Sir Jack Hayward when he sponsored

the women's team in 1970. Years later she still credited him with playing a major role in providing her with the platform to make a name for herself.

Baroness Heyhoe Flint became the first woman to be admitted to the MCC when her playing career ended and in 2004 she became the first woman elected to the full committee. She later became the first woman to be inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame.

Ben added: "Women's cricket was an unknown sport then, and under-funded, which is where her wonderful friendship with Sir Jack Hayward started. There was a lot of bigotry in sport then and she faced real barriers. But she was a trailblazer."

"She applied to the MCC under the radar as R.Flint. As the MCC started to process her application they thought she was a bloke."

"They suddenly realised there was a woman applying. The MCC held a referendum on female members and after a second referendum it got through."

"I was there the day the vote was passed at Lords, it was just amazing. She has been a great role model."

Later Baroness Heyhoe Flint became a successful journalist – working for the Express & Star and as sports editor on the Wolverhampton Chronicle – and an award-winning after dinner speaker.

After Sir Jack took over Wolves in 1990, Baroness Heyhoe Flint became heavily involved in the club's public relations department. From 1997 to 2003 she served as a director at Sir Jack's request, later being made a vice-president.

She was President of the Lady Taversers from 2001 to 2011 and a Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands. In 2008 she received her OBE from the Prince of Wales and two years later was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.

Honoured

In 2011 she was honoured by her home city by being granted the Freedom of Wolverhampton. She was also inducted into Wolverhampton's Sporting Hall of Fame.

Ben said: "A lot of people had wonderful things to say about her over the years but to me she was just mum. She was a great person, a legend in terms of the simple things like her sportsmanship and the love of her family."

"She was just a giving person, always thinking about other people, not herself. It was almost impossible for me to keep track of everything she was doing."

Huge crowds are expected at Baroness Heyhoe Flint's funeral on February 8. A funeral cortege will leave Molineux at 2pm and make its way to St Peter's Church. Some fans will be able to attend church, but via a ballot. Numbers will be limited due to the amount of people expected to pay their respects.

To apply for a place, email fans@wolves.co.uk with Rachael Heyhoe Flint in the subject line, and include a name, address and supporter number. It will be family flowers only at the funeral.

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Mend this flaw in the law quickly

IN 2015, after more than 50,000 people joined the NSPCC's 'Flaw in the Law' campaign, the Government introduced legislation to arm police with new powers to tackle paedophiles.

It means an adult is breaking the law if they send a sexual communication to an under 16-year-old.

But now – almost two years later – the Government is dragging its feet and the law is yet to be triggered, despite the fact that similar legislation is already proving successful elsewhere in the UK.

In the last six years Scotland has recorded 1,537 offences under similar legislation and the law has also successfully been in place in Northern Ireland since last February.

This new offence was supposed to mean that the law could be brought to bear on anyone who grooms children online, yet in too many cases the police have been left powerless to take action.

All this makes the Government's delay even more baffling and unacceptable.

ALLY SULTANA
NSPCC Midlands Campaigns Manager

Filling holes is lucrative

IT has been announced that it is costing £14,000,000 to repair potholes in UK roads. Who is gaining by this expenditure?

The 'gangs' who actually do the repairs seem to just turn up, a brief spell of tidying up, then fill in the holes, level the material off, impact it then paint a sealant round the edges. In most cases they do a good job.

Initially the companies carrying out this work have to spend money on equipment but after this expense, it is just materials and labour. Very often such companies just disappear after a short while, pocketing our cash. Does no one in authority bother to check?

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

Don't be seduced by this special relationship

SO Mike Wood thinks we should back Trump over trade deals!

Why would anyone want to deal with such a hateful, racist, sexist bigot?

Has he, like so many people, been seduced by the so-called 'Special Relationship' that exists between Britain and the USA? If so, think again Mr Wood.

You only have to take note of his inaugural speech: 'America first, America first'. Any special relationship has only ever existed to further US interests.

In addition, Trump is a climate change denier, in fact, he was elected largely on a promise of disregarding all the scientific evidence to the phenomenon.

He brings to mind an earlier madman who was elected in the 1930s on the premise of bringing back jobs and making his country great again – and then left the world in ruins!

ALAN ASHMAN
Sedgley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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EMAIL

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expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

We want to see our GP when we're ill, not three weeks later

IT is obvious to us as patients that the appointment system at doctors' surgeries is just not coping with the number of patients that need to see a doctor.

But why is the waiting room almost always empty when I go to the surgery even though there are often a number of doctors in attendance?

Is it because many patients often don't turn up for appointments?

Could it be because it has been so long since they booked it they have forgotten it, forgotten or couldn't be bothered to cancel it, got better in the meantime or worse still they have ended up in hospital?

Some of the patients who got better probably didn't need to see a doctor in the first place but it stopped genuine sick people from being able to get an appointment.

I think the appointment system is great for people who need to be organised for work, school, etc, but there are many who could and would be willing to just sit and wait.

I would if I could see a doctor on the actual day that I feel ill, and not three weeks later.

I know you can ring before 8am for emergency appointment but what exactly constitutes an emergency?

Please, please bring the old system back, if only in part.

It surely would not be so difficult to arrange a duty doctor on a rota basis, a doctor who does not take appointments on that particular day and just sees those walk-in patients.

A closing-off time for patients to go on the list and an understanding that you may have to wait some time would be readily accepted by many.

It would free up appointments for those that want or need them.

Us old ones remember the days when you had no appointments and we had no choice but to wait.

Surely running the two systems side by side would please everyone?

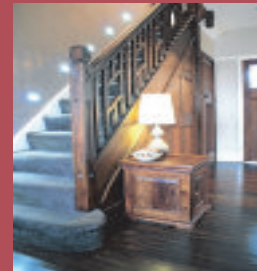
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8 Lord Cobham talks about his ancestral home

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, January 26, 2017

A RARE opportunity to hear Lord Cobham give a talk about his ancestral home near Stourbridge, Hagley Hall, was given at a retirement living development.

The 12th Viscount Cobham visited McCarthy and Stone's Sanderson Court development on Park Road in Hagley.

An audience comprising of history enthusiasts, Hagley residents and McCarthy and Stone homeowners, gained an insight into the compelling back story of Hagley Hall, which dates back to the 1700s.

The talk included details of the ongoing restoration of the hall and its grounds.

Shelley Morewood, sales executive at Sanderson Court, explained: "We were highly honoured to welcome Lord Cobham to Sanderson Court. Everyone in attendance was very interested to discover more about the fascinating history of Hagley Hall. Hosting his talk was a true privilege."

Charity fundraiser to be held along canal

A CHARITY canal walk in May will raise funds for the Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge.

People taking part in the walk on May 21 will be walking to The Maverick pub in Brettell Lane, Amblesote, along the Staffordshire and Worcestershire and Stourbridge canals. Those taking part will have a choice of a 15 mile route from Stourport, nine miles from Wolverley or four-and-a-half miles from Kinver.

Walkers are encouraged to take their dogs with them and get family and friends involved.

The walk will coincide with a team of men from the West Midlands Fire Service and The Maverick, who will be walking 125 miles from Borth on the Welsh coast to The Maverick in just 56 hours during the same weekend.

Welsh court deals with brute who beat his wife on holiday

Want to get fit? Then walk this way



Instructors Mike Horton and Mark Phillips are calling on the over-50s to join them for Nordic walking

A FITNESS instructor who has dedicated the last 15 years of his life getting the over-50s fitter is hoping his new Nordic walking sessions in Birmingham can help older people get out and about.

Mark Phillips, from Sedgley, runs Black Country Nordic walking club and is running taster sessions for those interested at Cannon Hill Park in Edgbaston. In the Nordic style people walk with poles, taking pressure off joints and is described as ideal for the elderly and those with arthritis.

Mr Phillips, 38, also runs Silver Fit gym in Walsall, along with various other fitness classes at care homes across the Black Country.

He said: "I started focusing on older people after I became a fitness instructor because I saw that no one was really helping that particular age group and they're the ones that need the help the most."

"Hopefully, the Nordic walking can get more people in the outdoors as it'll make such a difference to people on their own"

According to the NHS, Nordic walking can lower the risk of chronic illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes, asthma, strokes and is good to lose weight.

Mr Phillips added: "A lot of people have complimented me as it's helped them leave their house and they've made new friends."

The Nordic walking taster session will take place on Saturday. For more information or to book a place, visit www.blackcountrynordicwalking.co.uk or call 07765138475.

A BRUTAL husband from Halesowen who twice thrashed his wife with a broomstick, leaving bruises all over her body, has been put behind bars.

The court in North Wales heard that 59-year-old Steven Downing, who had been married to wife Caroline for 32 years, had taunted her with the broomstick and on one occasion hit her with it until it broke.

At Caernarfon Crown Court, Downing, of Lyttleton Avenue, was jailed for three and a half years after pleading guilty to assaulting his 58-year-old wife three times and threatening to kill her. A restraining order now bans him from contacting her.

He had originally denied the offences but changed his plea after she had given prosecution evidence at a trial, but before she was due to be cross examined.

Violence had taken place while they were on holiday at Tywyn and Llanegryn in Gwynedd last year, and on one occasion the victim ran to a neighbour's in her nightdress for help.

Threatened

Brett Williamson, prosecuting, said Downing had threatened his wife not to tell police or he'd 'come after her and kill her upon his release.'

The court heard that at a barbecue at Llanegryn he'd smashed a glass and his wife's hand had been cut. The judge was told that Downing told his wife: 'I really want to glass you. I want to kill you.' On another occasion he'd told her 'to get ready to die' and put a pillow over her face.

Defence barrister Dafydd Roberts said Downing, who had no previous convictions, had been suffering from a mental problem and depression. He now accepted that he would have to rebuild his life without his family.

Judge Tracey Lloyd-Clarke told Downing that he had been controlling, sadistic and cruel.

Valli tribute at hotel in aid of hospice funds

FOLLOWING a successful tour of the UK, Stephen James will be performing his critically acclaimed Frankie Valli tribute show for one night, in support of the Mary Stevens Hospice.

The show documents the rise of the Four Seasons frontman in the style of the Jersey Boys stage show, with a professional narrator. Stephen will perform at The Granary Hotel in Shenstone, near Kidderminster, on March 23.

Diane Moore, lottery and promotions manager at Mary Stevens Hospice, said: "A couple of members of the team here have actually seen Stephen perform a number of times over the last few years, and we've always joked that it'd be amazing to have him do something for us. Then one day I think we realised that there was no harm in actually asking him."

Included in the £24.95 ticket price is the performance and a full evening meal. To book tickets call the hospice fundraising team on (01384) 377 778 or email diane@mshfundraising.co.uk

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Fresh review into Christina's death

A SECOND review into the tragic death of a Halesowen schoolgirl killed by a paranoid schizophrenic is a step closer to being published, following completion of the first draft.

NHS England commissioned the investigation into the death of Christina Edkins two years ago. Christina, aged 16, was fatally stabbed on a bus in Hagley Road, Birmingham, while on her way to Leasowes High School.

She was stabbed in March 2013 by Phillip Simelane, who was detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act after pleading guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

An initial inquiry by Birmingham Cross City Clinical Commissioning Group said Christina's death could have been prevented after it emerged Simelane had been released

from prison with no supervision only months before the attack.

The fresh inquiry was launched because of the group's findings and the family's wishes. A spokesman for NHS England said: "A first draft of the investigation report has now been completed and is going through NHS England review and approvals processes. Findings from the investigation will be published in due course."

Drink-driver jailed after causing horrific crash

A DRINK-DRIVER was showing off, driving at more than twice the speed limit when involved in a crash that left two of his passengers with appalling injuries, a judge heard.

Craig Delaney, who had neither insurance nor a valid licence, was estimated to be travelling at 68mph in a 30 zone and on the wrong side of the road when he crashed into a wall, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Impact

The 27-year-old lost control while swerving to miss an oncoming car, clipped the kerb and hurtled into a garden wall with such force the engine was torn out of the gold Vauxhall Corsa. The vehicle then rebounded into the path of another car whose driver, Mark Howl, could not avoid hitting the wreckage in Reddal Hill Road, Cradley Heath.

Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting, said front seat passenger Daniel Priest had his arm out of the window and it was almost severed by the impact with



Craig Delaney escaped serious injury, unlike his two passengers

the low wall. Mr Howl found Delaney had been catapulted into the rear of the Corsa and was lying on top of badly injured Rebecca Burgess. Mr Soulsby added: "She was struggling for breath and Mr Howl pulled the defendant off her, possibly saving her life."

Mr Priest was rushed to hospital

for emergency surgery but doctors could not save his arm. He also had a broken cheek bone, four broken ribs, a punctured lung and lacerated liver. The 26-year-old chef is likely to face life-long pain. Miss Burgess was in intensive care for six days. Delaney was not badly hurt.

Delaney had drunk up to four pints and several shots at a bar with Mr Priest when he linked up with Miss Burgess before going to a pub. Three hours after the crash on December 6, 2015, the defendant gave a blood-alcohol reading of 94 milligrams. The limit is 80.

Mr Simon Hunka, defending, conceded: "He cannot remember what happened in the incident but it must have had something to do with bravado. He made a terrible mistake."

Delaney of Woodcroft Close, Cradley Heath, admitted causing serious injury by dangerous driving, having excess alcohol, and not having insurance or licence. He was jailed for two years eight months and banned from driving for six years four months.

Judge Simon Ward said: "I can only conclude from the speed you were doing that you were trying to show off to those in the car in the most dangerous way."

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Motorist who knocked down police officer is sent to prison

A DRIVER who knocked down an officer while fleeing from police has been sentenced to 17 months in prison.

The 26-year-old motorist, Mohammed Asun, of Queens Cross, Dudley, had neither insurance nor licence when he was spotted at the wheel of a silver VW Golf in a car park by officers on foot patrol.

The two uniformed officers – both wearing high visibility jackets – thought he was acting suspiciously at Southall Lane, Dudley, at about 3.30pm on August 16 and went to investigate. Asim tried to drive away but his path was blocked by a vehicle coming into the car park.

Mr John Evans, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "The defendant reversed at speed, crashing into a skip. One of the officers smashed the driver's side window with a baton in an effort to stop the vehicle as it accelerated towards the exit." The Golf struck Pc Alan Hann, before speeding through a red light. The officer was knocked off his feet, suffering leg injuries and was off work for three weeks.

Asim's former girlfriend, Naila Yasmeen, 34, also ended up behind bars for a year after trying to cover up the crime.

Fingerprints

The car was registered to Yasmeen, who was out when police visited her home, but she reported the Golf as stolen soon after. She and her Asim both named someone else as the driver. But father-of-three Asim's fingerprints were on the vehicle.

He waited until the day of trial before pleading guilty to dangerous driving, assault and having neither insurance nor a driving licence. Yasmeen admitted letting him and another person borrow the car and pleaded guilty to attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Mr Carl Templar-Vasey, defending Asim, said: "He acted on impulse without concern for others but did not deliberately drive at the officers." Miss Alisha Harris, for Yasmeen, of Highfield Road, Salford, said her client had ended her relationship with Asim. Recorder Jason MacAdam jailed the pair, who each had previous convictions, and said: "It was only by chance that PC Hands was not more seriously injured."



Mohammed Asim – driver



Naila Yasmeen – lied about car

New museum plans revealed at Archives



Annette Templar and Jane Lamine show off the plans for the displays

PLANS for the future of Dudley museum and art collections were unveiled at drop-in information sessions.

The old museum and gallery on St James's Road was closed by the cash-strapped borough council in December after more than 100 years as the town's landmark museum and art gallery, despite a 4,000 signature petition calling for it to be retained. Four staff lost their jobs.

A series of open days were held last week at the borough's modern Archives building, on Tipton Road, where the museum's exhibits are to be stored and displayed.

The event gave people the chance to look at floor plans and layout for the borough's collections.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, Dudley's cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "The collections enjoyed many happy years at the old building but these proposals are about building something sustainable for the future. We are planning to celebrate this borough's unique and fascinating history."

The collections are currently being packed away and will be moved to the new site over the next few months, while the new museum will open in the autumn. Items on loan from the Duncan Edwards collection, which Manchester United have been negotiating to buy from the family, could also go on show at the Archives.

Council chiefs said the new museum will be 'at the heart of the town's 'tourism hub' beside the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Zoo and Castle.

The former building is now intended for staff training and conferences.

Drug abuse led to gamer's death at 41

A DRUG user died after his substance abuse led to congestion in his airways.

Jaspal Gill, 41, was discovered by his parents at the family home in Bristol Road, Netherton on October 10.

Mr Gill had been asleep after a late night of playing computer games, but when his father checked on him the next afternoon he was unresponsive.

Cannabis, cocaine, anti-depressants and alcohol were found in his body. The drugs or alcohol found in his system weren't at a dangerous level but previous substance abuse had caused his airways to close up.

A pathologist's report said: "The patient was found deceased at home. He had not been ill recently. He used to drink heavily but not recently. He was playing computer games until about 3 or 4am. He normally got up at 2pm or 3pm but he hadn't got up on this occasion. He was unresponsive. An ambulance was called but he was pronounced dead."

His blood was sent for toxicology tests. The results revealed the drugs and alcohol that was found in his system were not at a potential fatal dosage. But his airways and lungs were congested as a result of previous drug abuse.

Zafar Siddique, senior coroner for the Black Country, recorded a conclusion of a drug-related death.

Can you ride tandem? If so, Beacon need you

TANDEM cycling volunteers are being sought by a Dudley-based sight-loss charity.

The Beacon Centre launched the tandem club last year to help people living with sight loss experience cycling. But the club, which meets every other Tuesday, is short of experienced and confident cyclists to be the front riders.

To find out more email tjukes@beaconvision.org or call 01902 880 111.



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Thug stabbed dog after it urinated on marijuana

A THUG has been locked up after stabbing his dog repeatedly in the face and then trying to hide the animal from police by hiding her behind a washing machine.

Michael Bailey, of Dale Terrace, Tividale, launched a savage attack on his dog Lucky after she urinated on a bag of marijuana at his home.

The 54-year-old punched and stabbed the animal numerous times in the face. Police were called after the attack was overheard but when they arrived Bailey said that the dog had run off. However, after a search of the house officers discovered the frightened dog had been boarded up behind a washing machine.

Bailey was jailed for 12 weeks for causing unnecessary suffering to the dog. Bailey was sentenced at Birmingham Magistrates' Court after being found guilty in his absence

at the same court in November. As well as the prison sentence, Bailey was disqualified from keeping animals for life and was ordered to pay a £115 victim surcharge over the incident on June 18.

RSPCA inspector Steven Morrall, who investigated, said: "This was a particularly brutal attack on the poor dog. On top of this, she was also very thin as a result of neglect."

Lucky was identified by a police dog legislation officer as a banned breed under Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act, and as a result the animal was put down.

Inspector Morrall added: "Lucky had made a full recovery and we were hoping to see her into a new home. The RSPCA do not make these decisions. We do not agree with Breed Specific Legislation and have been campaigning for changes."



Lucky the dog was put down as a banned breed after being mistreated by owner Michael Bailey, of Tividale

MP speaks out in Commons over cuts

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has attacked the Government over what he called 'unfair' cuts to the funding of the borough council.

The Labour MP spoke out in Parliament where he said reduction in funding from central government to Dudley Council was having a damaging effect.

The authority has made a series of cuts to services and must save £25 million by 2020. Dudley finance bosses have blamed the drop in funding from Whitehall.

Mr Austin said: "Dudley would be able to do much more on housing if it wasn't having its budgets cut by 20 per cent, compared to one per cent in Surrey and two per cent in Buckinghamshire."

"That's put pressure on a whole range of council services. We've seen libraries close, social services under pressure and, over Christmas, hard-working, low-paid staff in Dudley had to take three days' unpaid leave, effectively a pay cut of one per cent, because of this Government's cuts."

"How can they sit there and tell me that the cuts they have imposed on Dudley are in any way fair?"

Curator had indecent images of children

THE senior curator at the Black Country Living Museum has quit his post after being arrested for possessing and distributing indecent images of children, a court heard.

Dr John Beckerson, aged 42, earned around £40,000 a year as curator at the museum on Tipton Road but called his employer to tell them he would be resigning after his arrest on March 1, 2016.

Police had forced entry to his home on Beechfield Grove, Bilston, in the early hours of the morning. They took two mobile phones and a Dell computer tower.

Subsequent searches found that across his devices he had 20 category A images of children, as well as 47 category B images, and that he had distributed 843 online.

Beckerson pleaded guilty to all three charges at Wolverhampton Crown Court and was given a six-month prison sentence suspended for two years.



Dr John Beckerson

Lonely

Prosecuting Miss Fiona Cortese, said: "The defendant said to officers he was a classic lonely man who looked at pictures online but had never touched anybody."

"He also told police that he had used chat rooms to distribute images."

"When he mentioned his job at the museum he told police that this did not put him in regular contact with children and he also added that he had no sexual interest in children."

Mr Robert Cowley, defending, told the court Beckerson had gone over and above what others arrested for similar offences would normally do to help police.

He said: "I don't for one minute argue that these offences are not suitable for a custodial sentence."

"However, the defendant has asked for and complied with the help offered to him in order to put this in the past, he has been frank and honest from the police from the outset."

"He was earning roughly £40,000 a year and is now working for between £700 and £900 a month, so the financial effect is huge for him."

Judge Simon Ward also ordered that Beckerson comply with a sexual harm prevention order, be placed on the sex offenders register for seven years and comply with a sexual offenders rehabilitation programme.

Judge Ward said: "These images show real children in real situations and by looking at them you create a demand."

Ultra fit take on DirtRun

A 32-MILE running event starting and finishing at Himley Hall is planned for March 12.

The DirtRun Black Country Ultra is in four eight-mile stages and can be tackled by individuals, relay pairs or teams of four. It is being organised by Pulse Pursuits with Dudley and Sandwell councils and the Canal and River Trust.

One of the sections involves running through the nearly two-mile Netherton Canal Tunnel. The route which takes in Wombourne, Lower Penn, Wolverhampton, Coseley, Tipton, Netherton, Merry Hill, Brockmoor and Pensnett includes stretches on old railway lines, and canal towpaths. The minimum age for runners is 18 on race day.

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REVIEW

Strictly Come Dancing – The Live Tour, Barclaycard Arena
FAB-U-LOUS. Well what else would you expect from the 10th anniversary of the Strictly Come Dancing live tour – definitely a 10 out of 10.

Only shock of the night at this glittering first night at the packed Barclaycard Arena was that the reigning champion Ore Oduba, who scored top marks for both his routines, did not even make the final two.

That was left to Danny Mac and Louise Redknapp, but Danny stole it on the night. I think, as it was the audience that was voting, the sight of his bare chest during his samba clinched it for the mostly female audience.

Louise would have been a far more worthy winner with her two stunning routines, the cowboy-style quickstep and the fierce and passionate paso doble.

Cheers

But the award for entertainment had to go to Ed Balls. He was as usual bottom of the leaderboard but that did not seem to matter to the many who cheered him on at every step. He stole the night with his Gangnam-style routine and brought huge cheers when he managed the lift he so spectacularly failed to do in the TV series. Signs of relief all round.

For sheer energy and enthusiasm, at the age of 71, full marks to Lesley Joseph who was giving her 'toyboy' professional a run for his money.

Lighting up the stage Daisy Lowe, who said that she had danced every day since the TV series finished, called it the 'best experience of her life'.



The Strictly Come Dancing Live tour performers and professionals



Host Anita Rani, a series quarter finalist



Ed Balls and partner Katya Jones

The three judges joined in the dancing and proved they have still got it. Head judge Len Goodman was joined by tour director Craig Revel Horwood and former Strictly professional Karen Hardy, who described the other two as the 'grumpy old men'.

Keeping them all in check was host

Anita Rani who twirled her way into the quarter finals in 2015.

With two awards on the horizon, one for the TV show and the other for head judge Len this glittering show continues to have the star factor. Long may they keep on dancing.

Sue Attwater

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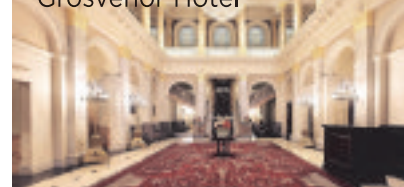
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Coroner refuses to question conviction

A CORONER has refused to question the conviction of a Brierley Hill man over the death of his girlfriend in Crete - despite hearing expert evidence her injuries could have been caused by a fall.

Jonathan Leach said he could not dispute a Greek trial's findings that Luke Walker was responsible for the death of Chelsea Hyndman.

Miss Hyndman, who was 20, died on the Greek island in May 2010 after suffering severe abdominal injuries.

Walker was initially charged with Miss Hyndman's murder. He always denied assaulting her and claimed her injuries were the result of a fall.

Walker was sentenced to eight years in prison when the murder charge was downgraded to grievous bodily harm. The sentence was successfully appealed, meaning Walker would serve no further jail time.

At Miss Hyndman's inquest last week, Walker's barrister, Mr Andrew Scott, requested the coroner consider questioning the Greek court's proceedings.

Conclusion

Mr Leach refused to do so. However, he decided against a verdict of unlawful killing. Mr Leach said: "The proceedings were in Greece, a country within the EU, with a democracy and civilisation which goes well beyond our own, therefore the trial can not be criticised. I can't make a determination inconsistent with what was found in Greece, where Walker was found guilty. It means the only conclusion available to me is unlawful killing and a narrative verdict.

"As a result of blunt force trauma to the abdomen, my conclusion is that of a narrative conclusion."

The inquest had earlier heard from



Chelsea Hyndman died from severe abdominal injuries



Luke Walker labelled the trial in Greece a 'farce'

Professor Colin Johnson, a consultant surgeon and specialist on the pancreas, who said if Miss Hyndman had her hand trapped in her belt when she fell, as was suggested by witnesses, it could have caused the injuries. But he said it was 'not possible to say one way or the other' if the injuries were caused by an assault or the fall.

The coroner's comments came after Walker, now 29, admitted he wished he had taken his girlfriend, who was from Castleford in West Yorkshire, to hospital sooner.

Speaking at Wakefield Coroner's Court last week, Walker said: "I would have taken her to hospital sooner. I should have made her go. I should have stood my ground and taken her."

The court heard Miss Hyndman had been feeling unwell in the days before being taken to hospital but Walker said she had refused to go.

Miss Hyndman was admitted to hospital on May 16 with severe stomach pains and jaundice. She had suffered damage to her pancreas which caused multiple organ failure and died the next day.

Walker was arrested over her death

and Greek prosecutors claimed he had caused her injuries. He said she had fallen on a cobbled street during a night out.

Walker lived with Miss Hyndman in the holiday resort of Malia. The pair had met while working in the resort of Malia in 2008 before they began a relationship a year later. Walker was charged with her murder after witnesses described hearing them arguing after a night out in Malia in the early hours of May 12, 2010.

The court in Greece was told neighbours heard shouting and furniture being moved in the couple's room.

After appealing the eight-year jail term, Walker received a three-year suspended sentence. He later labelled his trial in Greece as a 'farce'. His family raised more than £8,500 to pay for his bail, so he could return to the Black Country. He had been in custody for five months charged with murder.

Walker's solicitor Bill Bache said it was likely there would be further proceedings in the High Court and they wanted an 'independent examination of the facts'. It was possible they would seek a new inquest.

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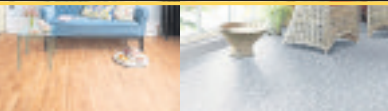
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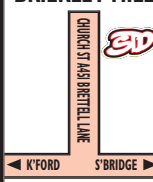
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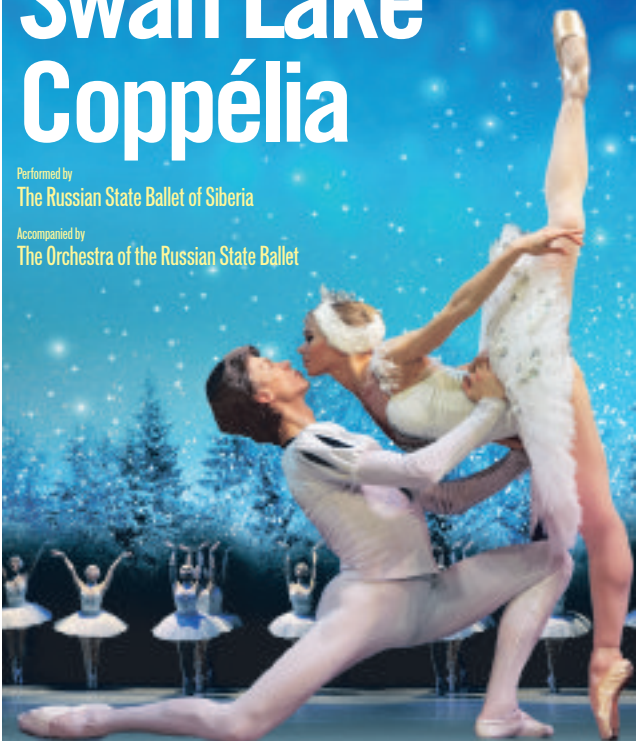
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Former garage boss jailed for sex assault on customer

A FORMER garage owner has been jailed after admitting to sexually assaulting a client and then intimidating her into dropping the charges against him.

Robert Parke, aged 52, committed the assault on the woman after she bought a car from RP Autos in Brierley Hill, a firm he used to own, in May.

He then continued to harass the woman, even after she reported the assault to police, and forced her to sign a false statement in a bid to get the charges against him dropped.

Parke then tried to evade justice by moving addresses around the country. His luck ran out after officers placed him on the force's Most Wanted website.

After information was given to police, Parke eventually handed himself in. Parke, of Bromley, Pennsnett, pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court to sexual assault and perverting the course of justice.

Detective Constable Mike Clarke, from West Midlands Police sexual offence team, said: "This man abused his position to prey on a woman who had bought a car from his garage. He then intimidated her and harassed her into dropping the charges."

"Now he has been put behind bars and will be placed on the sex offender register for life. I would like to take the opportunity to commend this woman's bravery in coming forward initially and then throughout the investigation."

21 hope today's sentence will bring her some comfort as she continues to recover from her ordeal.

Parke was sentenced to four years and four months imprisonment. The sentence included three unconnected counts of sexual activity to which he also pleaded guilty. He was also placed on the sex offenders register for life.

Rep panto raises £700 for charity



The cast of Dick Whittington at Oldbury Rep who made the charity collections at the Barlow Theatre

OLDBURY Rep's annual panto collection has raised over £700 for the charity, Options for Life, thanks to the generosity of audiences attending this year's production of Dick Whittington.

Written by Rep member Ian Thompson, the panto ran for 10 performances at the Barlow Theatre, Langley - the home of Oldbury Rep.

This year's chosen charity, Options for Life, is

a not-for-profit charitable enterprise providing a range of innovative opportunities for people with learning disabilities. Further information can be obtained from their website www.optionsforlife.info or by phone on 0121 544 6611.

A spokesman for Oldbury Rep said: "We are pleased to be able to support both local and national charities throughout the year."

Young Voices in concert

THOUSANDS of primary school pupils are singing as part of the world's largest children's choir over five nights this week at the Young Voices concerts at Birmingham's Genting Arena.

Every night around 6,000 children, aged six to 13, will perform. It continues tonight (Thursday) and Friday, then again on Monday and Tuesday.

The nationwide tour, which also features venues in Sheffield, London and Manchester, will see a total of 120,000 children take to the stage alongside artists like the Beatbox Collective and soprano Laura Wright.

Young Voices was developed to help unite children in song and boost their confidence.

Over the years, Young Voices choirs have performed with stars such as Alexandra Burke, Joss Stone and Gary Barlow.

It has raised more than £1 million for children's charities.

Ben Lewis, managing director of Young Voices said: "Every pupil should be exposed to music at an early age, whether the joy is singing, playing an instrument or loving the sound of music, the potential benefits are huge."

Tickets are priced from £22.70 for the Genting Arena concerts.

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More pupil places created in revamp at primary school

A £6.6 million investment in Sandwell schools to create hundreds of primary spaces and help build a new school has been approved.

One school to have already benefitted from the scheme is Reddal Hill Primary, in Trinity Street, Cradley Heath.

A total of 700 spaces will be created through extensions of existing schools and the development of a new primary in Smethwick.

Earlier this year at Reddal Hill Primary empty classrooms that were not in use were renovated and a former PE stock cupboard and changing room were turned into reception classrooms.

Headteacher Ceri Nelson said: "Our work has already been completed and will allow us to turn into a two-form entry."

Renovation

"Our renovation was completed in summer in readiness for the new groups. It came due to the huge increase in children needing places in the area. It was flagged up to the authority and decided that it would be in the best interest of the community."

"It's great that this old building can now continue for many years to come."

Proposals have also been made to build a new eight-classroom teaching

By Clare Butler

block for St Matthew's CE Primary School in Smethwick, on Windmill Lane.

Meanwhile, Crocketts Community and St Gregory's Catholic primary schools in Smethwick, alongside Lyng Primary School in West Bromwich, would also see classroom extensions.

A report before cabinet said it was also currently projected that an additional 3,845 places will be needed in secondary schools in Sandwell by September 2025.

Over the last six years Sandwell Council have provided more than 4,400 new primary places.

The Q3 Academy Langley, off Moat Road in Oldbury, was the first new secondary school to built in a decade. School bosses said it will have more than 1,500 pupils by 2023.



Lauren Bradley is raising money for her trip to Peru, including a trek to Machu Picchu

Sixth form student on way to Peru

A 17-YEAR-OLD student from Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath is preparing for a trip to Peru to help with conservation work in the Amazon rainforest conservation work.

Lauren Bradley from West Bromwich was delighted to discover that she had secured a place with organisers Camps International and will help build a school for children in the South American country.

The sixth former will spend four weeks in Peru this summer and the trip will include a three day trek to the ruined Inca city of Machu Picchu, high in the Andes Mountains.

Lauren has already raised half of the £4,000 needed to fund the trip and will be selling cakes at her school and All Saints Church to raise money.

"I'm really excited. Ever since I was small I wanted to do something like this," she said.

Heathens' new hero gives talk

A POPULAR speedway rider is to give an exclusive talk about his life and career.

Cradley Heathens new recruit Danny Ayres is to speak on his time on the track at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on February 3, at 7.30pm.

The 29-year-old made the switch to the Heathens from Kent and is already a firm favourite with speedway fans in the Black Country after guest appearances for the Heathens.

Her raced for clubs in Kent and Glasgow before his move to the West Midlands. Ayres said: "I've been over the moon with the reaction from the Cradley fans. The support has been great. There couldn't really have been a better response." The event will be hosted by broadcaster Nigel Pearson. Admission is £5, towards Danny's Racing Fund.

Choir in Army band concert

CRADLEY Heath Salvation Army Band and Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir will be uniting for a concert, entitled A Feast of Music, on February 25 at 7pm at the Salvation Army, Meredith Street.

The choir's press officer, Eddie Nicholls said: "There will be music to suit most tastes, from pop to classics and there will be refreshments."

Tickets cost £5 and for more information call (01384) 393067.

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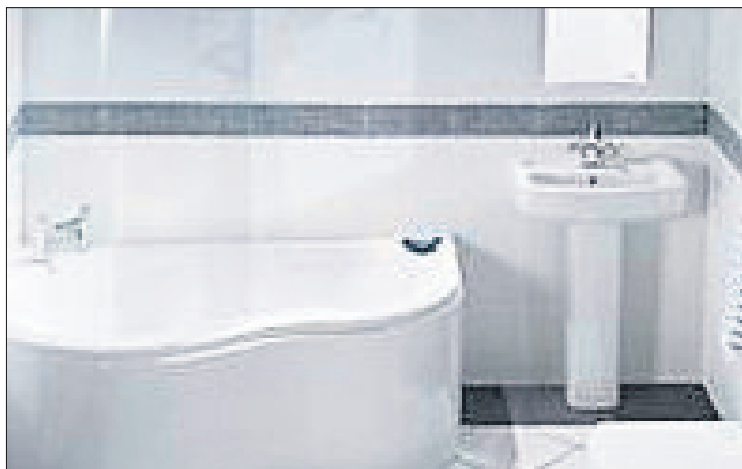
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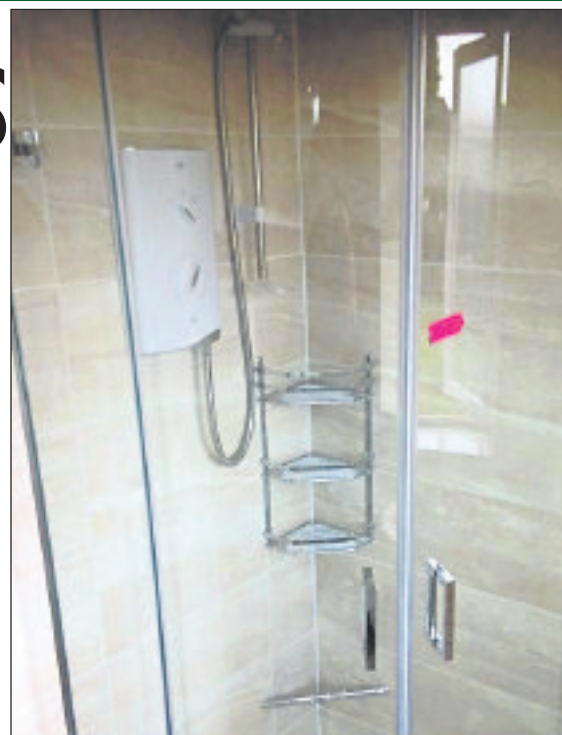
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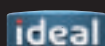
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Commercial feature

WITH the new year well under way, Gymphobics in Halesowen is there to help women lose the pounds piled up over the Christmas break.

The friendly High Street facility is one of many premier inch and weight loss centres available across the UK. The year 2017 is here and with people becoming more body conscious as they hope to adhere to those new year's resolutions, Gymphobics might just be the perfect answer to help you on your way. The famous 30 minute workout – three times a week – is all you need to drop a dress size in just ten weeks.

And with the Halesowen branches extended opening hours and appointment system to ensure a time slot, everyone can get the figure they want with limited time available. If conventional gyms and health clubs give you a phobia, then Gymphobics is the place for you. Members feel very comfortable at Gymphobics.

Appealing

With no mirrors, no pictures of the 'ideal' body and no distracting TV screens or blaring dance tunes, it provides the perfect setting to lose some weight. The women-only concept is also very appealing too, as is the amount of personal attention that our staff offer each and every member.

Andrea Withers, who owns and manages Gymphobics in Halesowen, said: "Aside from the fact that it is only a 30 minute workout, – as women are always busy and there are no men who hog all the equipment – Gymphobics takes a holistic approach to weight loss and fitness. Therefore you get the whole package, not just one or the other and this really helps with motivation and ensures that you achieve your goals. It doesn't matter whether it's fitness, weight loss or just toning that you're looking for, as we write individual programmes for every



Staff offer a warm, friendly welcome to women-only at Gymphobics in Halesowen

member, their desires, strengths, health and previous exercise is all taken into consideration to ensure that it is the right programme for them using air resistance weights.

"Air resistance weights are very safe on your joints but more importantly, there is always an instructor with you to ensure that technique is correct and we always do a full induction to address any health issues prior to using the circuit, updated every 10 weeks for changes or of course, improvement! "It's also such a fun and happy place to be, an experience not normally associated with gyms!"

Users of Gymphobics don't just come and shape their figure before moving onto a 'proper'

gym... Its programmes change every 10 weeks, meaning progression is never-ending.

Some members who joined when the Halesowen branch opened nearly four years ago still find the programmes challenging.

Gymphobics don't work particularly on the cardio vascular system, they encourage walking to keep the heart healthy but getting hot and sweaty is not the right idea of a workout. All instructors are nutritionally trained in real food, which makes it easy to lose weight without cooking different meals for all of the family.

It also offers special package rates for family members. Keep up to date with news via the Facebook page.



No mirrors or TVs, just a range of fitness equipment

CONTACT US

Name: Gymphobics

Address: 51 High St, Halesowen, B63 3BG

Phone: 0121 448 1743

Website: www.gymphobics.co.uk/gyms/Halesowen



Do something for you this year and make it count!!!

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[gymphobicshalesowen](https://www.facebook.com/gymphobicshalesowen) - www.gymphobics.co.uk/halesowen

Top choice for work on your garden

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

BASED in the heart of Tipton, the Rowan Group of companies is ideally situated to serve all of the local community.

From their base they confidently serve the whole of the West Midlands with all of their garden needs.

Established in 2007 by Managing Director Richard Jennings, the company specialise in tree surgery but have since expanded into landscaping.

The expansion took place due to the growing demand from very satisfied customers who were always asking Richard for his thoughts and advice on a range of problems around the garden.

No job is too big or small for the company to take care of from a simple reshaping of conifer bushes to total removal of a mighty oak!

The Rowan group of companies is an Age Concern and local authority contractor, with all staff qualified and are CRB certified and N.P.T.C. certified and are a member of Tradewell Trading Standard Scheme.

This goes a long way when Richard goes out to view a potential job, especially Age Concern, and Richard is very proud to be able to quote this to any client, new or old.

Environmentally Friendly

At Rowan, all of the our tree surgeons have all the latest up-to-date equipment and machinery to tackle any job from hedgerow planting to woodland clearance. Tree stumps are often an unsightly addition to any garden.

While many people will use them as a garden feature, often they would prefer them removed. Stump grinding or root removal is an easy way to get rid of the problem, stopping the chance of it regrowing and maintaining the look of your garden. All stump grinding and root removal performed by Rowan Garden Services tree surgeons is 100 per cent environmentally friendly,



BEFORE

CONTACT US

Name: Rowan Tree Services

Address: Unit 4, Eclipse Trading Estate, Sedgley Road

West, Tipton, DY4 8DQ

Phone: 07733 226568/01384 213644

Website: www.romangroup.co.uk



AFTER

SERVICES

Stump grinding

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Root removal

Hedges shaped

Jungles cleared

Full landscapes

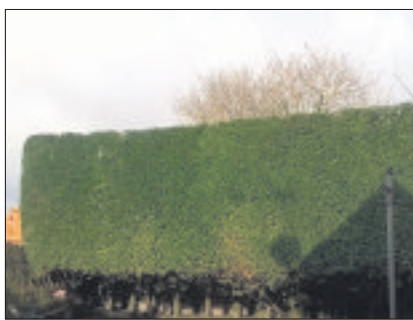
Hedges pruned



Some of the group's impressive kit



Managing Director Richard Jennings



Job done - Some work carried out by Richard



The team's gets ready to carry out the work

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Come and see for yourselves - no appointment necessary

Customer at heart of A-rated service

Commercial feature

GASTEK Solutions have been operating in the West Midlands area for more than 12 years and have constantly strived to deliver a fantastic service to new and existing customers.

Managing director Phil Kitson has seen constant and continual growth in the company over the past 12 years and has obtained a strong team of highly trained Gas Safe engineers to help him build the company along the way.

Starting with just one engineer, he has built up loyal relationships with customers as well as his staff and in turn, his reputation and credibility are well known for being among the best.

Gastek Solutions has friendly engineers and advisers who can save you money.

They arrange a time slot that is convenient, arrive on time and do the job they said they'd do with all work carried out allocated a 12-month guarantee.

Success

Being Diamond Worcester Bosch accredited installers, customers receive the benefit of free extended warranties also.

The business believes the reason for its success is because it places the needs of the customer at the heart of everything it does.

No contractors are used and the team of staff is happy to be approached over the phone or face-to-face.

In addition there is a fully fitted Worcester Bosch showroom to show customers what they are purchasing.

Due to popular demand Gastek now offers Home Safe plans to take care of any repairs, maintenance or emergencies.

There are five different Home Safe service plans available to choose from, starting from the bronze plan, leading up to the custom plan. Whichever level plan customers choose to



The bathroom showroom at Gastek's head office

take, they can expect an exceptional level of expertise and respect for their homes. Even if people are moving house and have taken a plan with Gastek, they can be sure it will be dealt with as soon as staff are notified and either the address will be changed, or if the property becomes rented accommodation.

And don't forget, if you do decide to rent out a property, Gastek Solutions also offer landlord safety checks.

The well-established family-run business is a Worcester Bosch Diamond accredited installer; all engineers are Gas Safe registered and carry ID. So for A-rated boilers and an A-rated

service, Gastek Solutions hopes to be the first place people turn to for home emergencies and repairs.

Gastek can also offer finance packages to help ease the cost of any work that needs carrying out.

Affordable

So even if you think a new boiler might be costly, with a finance package suited to you the cost can become very affordable and you can have the peace of mind that your new boiler will give you hot water and keep your house warm in the winter months for many years to come.



Managing Director Phil Kitson

Call today to find out how we can help you.

Recently opened Gastek have branched out and opened a brand new plumbers merchants next door to their head office in Dudley.

With everything in stock that local heating and plumbing engineers will need on a daily basis the store is also open to the general public so if you're looking for a washer to a full central heating system then visit GTS Plumbing and Heating Supplies based at Unit 17 Anchor Business Park, Dudley DY2 9AF.

Mr Kitson said: "We can offer local tradespeople everything they need to keep their business running on a daily basis and always

have everything in stock that they might need.

"We are also open to the general public so if someone wants to give it a go for themselves we are here to advise as well as guide them to purchasing the correct product."

He added they were also looking forward to opening their new bathroom showroom in 2017. This will give the consumers a better shopping experience when they are looking for a bathroom makeover.

No virtual or 3D technology will be needed as you will be able to see the bathroom suites as they are and get a real feel of what your new bathroom could look like.

CONTACT US

Name:

Gastek Solutions

Address:

GTS Plumbing Merchants,
Unit B17,
Anchor Business Park,
Dudley, DY2 9AF

Phone:

01384 560856

Website:

www.gasteksolutions.co.uk

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- 300x1435mm wall hung two door unit

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(All prices are plus VAT)

WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST

Pedestrian died from head injuries

A CHURCH helper and security guard from Birmingham, who died after being hit by a car in Amblecote, will be 'a massive loss to the community', say his friends.

Hassan 'Victor' Darvishvand, 35, originally from Iran, was struck by a Toyota Auris in High Street, near the junction with Vicarage Road, at 2.35pm on October 9.

Mr Darvishvand was a popular member of the Jesus Fellowship Church in Newtown, Birmingham.

A statement from Pc Robin Smalley at Black Country Coroners Court, said: "Braking tests and measurements taken from the skid marks showed that the car was travelling at under 30mph. The driver told police that she didn't see Mr Darvishvand come from her offside."

A witness said that Mr Darvishvand was wearing sunglasses and earphones, which may have impaired his vision and hearing.

Coroner Zafar Siddique recorded a conclusion of death by traffic collision. He said he would write to police and Highways England to find out if safety measures are required on the road.



Comedian Wayne Beese, right, with pub landlord Tom Comyns at the Lamp Tavern in Dudley

Spotlight is on laughter again at Lamp pub venue

A COMEDIAN is hoping to bring the laughs back to a Black Country pub.

The Lamp Tavern, Dudley, which was given the best comedy club in the Midlands title in 2010, will begin hosting comedy nights again.

Dudley comic Wayne Beese is aiming to put the pub back in the spotlight by running monthly Loffs at The Lamp events.

The pub, on High Street, once hosted the likes of top comedians Reginald D Hunter, Tim Vine and Rhod Gilbert.

Wayne, who is a reporter at the Shropshire Star, said: "I began gigging as a comedian in the middle of 2013 and I did a spot at Stourbridge Town Hall. A few months later, my wife phoned me at work to say a bloke had knocked on the door looking for me. It turned out he'd been

in the front row at the town hall and wanted to know if I would go and do a surprise 10 minute slot for his mate's 50th birthday at The Lamp Tavern. I did it and immediately fell in love with the room there. Ever since I've thought about putting comedy on at The Lamp and now I've decided to give it a crack."

The 36-year-old former Dudley Chronicle reporter added: "Live comedy works best in small, intimate rooms. The Brewhouse at the Lamp is a great room. I will host the shows as resident compere and introduce acts hand-picked by myself."

The nights will be held on the last Friday of the month, starting with a triple bill on February 24 featuring Rob Deering, Nick Page and Daliso Chaponda, all for £10. Tickets are available from www.skiddle.com/e/12881718.

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we'll still be here until September for business as usual & we will always have our great range of fish & reptile equipment in stock at our usual low prices

Look out for great deals on discontinued lines & ex-display items throughout the next 9 months!

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Mon - Sat 9am-6pm Sun - 10:30am-4:30pm



Abuse video pervert is jailed after police raid

A PERVERT who kept thousands of pictures and videos of child abuse has been jailed - five years after avoiding prison for a similar offence.

Paul Fellows, aged 39, had been previously caught keeping abuse pictures in 2012 and received a three-year community order.

Fellows continued to download and view abuse even as he attended courses designed to stop him doing so, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

He was found with indecent images when police raided his home in Ash Road, Dudley on June 30, 2016.

Hundreds of those were of the worst sexual abuse, classified as category A.

Police had traced an internet provider address viewing abuse to Fellows' home. Just moments before officers went to arrest him, Fellows threw a hard drive out of a window. Loaded with illegal images and still warm to the touch, police said it had clearly been used moments before their arrival.

Online

He was also found to be using file sharing software which could have distributed more pictures online.

Fellows was found to be in possession of 102 pictures and 194 videos classed as category A.

A further 201 pictures and 345 videos were marked as category B. An additional 3,699 pictures and 29 videos were classed as category C. That was a total of 4,570 indecent images and videos.

For Fellows, Miss Nicole Steers said he was suffering from significant health

problems, including Crohn's disease.

Miss Steers said Fellows was a keen computer gamer and 'appears to be a social recluse' who was living in a 'world of internet.'

She added that he regularly wore a motorcycle helmet around people so he did not need to show his face.

Police requested that Fellows be banned from keeping any electronic device with a capacity greater than 32GB but Miss Steers said that he feared using such limited devices would curtail his computer gaming hobby.

Recorder Miles Watkins increased that capacity to 64GB and said if that stopped Fellows having fun on a computer then 'he has only himself to blame.'

He told Fellows: "You were found to have a number of computers and hard drives and a significant volume of material, indecent material. Videos and pictures of children were found."

Fellows was jailed for two years and eight months. He had earlier admitted three counts of distributing child pornography and a further three of possessing child pornography images.

Library to focus on South Asian culture

THE Library of Birmingham has been awarded more than £90,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to stage an exhibition and public events celebrating South Asian culture.

The Documenting Histories project is a partnership celebrating the role South Asian culture has played in Birmingham's history and identity. At the heart of the project is a major exhibition which will open in July, drawing on the library's collections, supported by a programme of events and workshops.

Councillor Ian Ward, deputy leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "Our city's greatest strength is the energy, creativity and diversity of its people."

fast the ticket

Buddy story

Boys on tour – P 25



**NATIVE
MONSTER**
Entertainment Unleashed

Shaw thing

See Page 25

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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Barbara Dickson



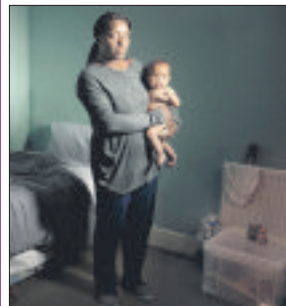
Wednesday, 7.30pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
The Scottish singer-songwriter draws on her folk roots as well as her hits, such as January February, Answer Me, Another Suitcase In Another Hall and Caravan Song.
Visit thsh.co.uk

Menace Beach



Thursday, 7.30pm
Hare and Hounds, Kings Heath
Scurry grunge rock from the noisy Leeds duo, who released new single Give Blood last week. Support from Birmingham band Mutes.
See hareandhoundskingsheath.skid.dletickets.com

Love



Until February 11
The Rep Studio, Birmingham
The experiences of those in poverty and temporary accommodation are examined in this hard-hitting new drama from Alexander Zeldin, which was recently seen at the National Theatre.
See birmingham-rep.co.uk

Lucy Porter



Tonight (Fri), 7.30pm
The Old Rep, Birmingham
A new stand-up comedy show from a Radio 4 and TV regular from such programmes as The News Quiz, Mock The Week and QI.
Visit www.oldreptheatre.co.uk

ROCK & METAL

U2-2 - Tribute to U2
Tonight, £10 - £12
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Legends Of Rock
Tonight, £3
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177 or 07986 577 661

Stanley Dee - Steely Dan tribute
Tonight, £6 - £7
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Independent Venue Week showcase feat. Rinse + Fears Chella + Alma
Tonight, £5
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

Quadrophonia Night
Tomorrow, O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

The Sensational 60's Experience
Tomorrow, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Nonsuch + Byron Hare + Yung Jimmys Big Ideas
Tomorrow, Six Eight Kafé, Birmingham, B2 5HG.
Call 0121 448 8089

Juyo + Timmas + LCD - part of Independent Venue Week 2017
Sun, £3
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Tyketto
Mon, £16 - £18
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Black Sabbath
Thu, Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Roadhouse Presents: Rock/Indie Showcase
Thu, £4
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Roy Orbison Story
Thu, £22
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

CLUBBING

After Dark Launch Party w/ Cause & Effect, Stanton Warriors
Tonight - tomorrow, The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham, B9 4AG.
Call 0121 771 1521

The Weekend Anthems performed by Killerstream
Tomorrow, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177 or 07986 577 661

Solardo Sessions Birmingham
Tomorrow - Sun, The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham, B9 4AG.
Call 0121 771 1521

Playaz : Birmingham
Tomorrow - Sun, The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham, B9 4AG.
Call 0121 771 1521

JAZZ, SOUL, BLUES MOTOWN & REGGAE

The UB40 Experience
Tomorrow, £7 - £8
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Paul Jones and Dave Kelly
Tomorrow, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, TF9 3AX.
Call 01630 654444

The Glenn Miller Orchestra
Sun, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue, Spotted Dog, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Live Jazz Broadcast
Wed, £5 - £10
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, Edgbaston, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

POP

ABBA + Bee Gees (tributes)
Tomorrow, £12.50 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Thank ABBA For The Music
Tomorrow, £21.50 - £23.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

The Acoustic Sessions
Tue, The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Ray Cooper
Wed, £11
Red Lion Folk Club, Birmingham, B14 7LY.
Call 0121 444 2803

CLASSICAL

Nights On Broadway
Tonight, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Junior Conservatoire Orchestral Concert
Tomorrow, £5 - £7
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, Edgbaston, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra
Sun, £15 - £40
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Beethoven's Fifth
Sun, Thu, CBSO Centre, Birmingham, B1 2LF.
Call 0121 616 6500

KS3: A Journey Across the Western World
Mon - Tue, CBSO Centre, Birmingham, B1 2LF.
Call 0121 616 6500

Liebeslieder (Elouise Waterhouse)
Thu, £8 - £10
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, Edgbaston, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

THEATRE

Fiddler on the Roof
Tonight, Stourbridge Town Hall, DY8 1YE.
Call 01384 812960

Jackson Live
Tonight, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Someone Like You - The Adele Songbook
Tonight, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Carpenters Story
Tomorrow, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Simon Weston: My Life, My Story
Tomorrow, £17.50
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 871580

Akaar 2017 Showcase Performance
Tomorrow, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 359 9444

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show
Mon - Tue, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Il Trovatore (ROH Live)
Tue, £14.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281 and Tue, MAC, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232 and Tue, Light House, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

Evita
Tue - Thu, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Round The Horne
Wed, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

That'll Be The Day
Thu, £23.50
Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Paula O'Brien Live in Wrexham
Thu, The Ramada Plaza Wrexham, LL13 7YH.
Call 01978 291400

COMEDY

Lucy Porter 'Consequences' tour
Tonight, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 359 9444

Standup comedy - Garr Murrain, Javier Jarquin, Micky Bartlett
Tonight - tomorrow, £15
Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham, B1 2HG.
Call 08700 111 960

Micky Flanagan Warm Up Show
Tomorrow, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

What's In A Name?
Tomorrow, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

MISC. EVENTS

The Birmingham Whisky Club Presents: Craig's List - New Releases
Today, The Wellington, Birmingham, B2 5SN.
Call 0121 200 3115

The Birmingham Whisky Club & Rowheath Pavilion Present: Burns' Ceilidh
Tomorrow, Rowheath Pavilion, Birmingham, B30 1HH.
Call 0121 458 1711

Baptism of Fire: Wilfred Owen's War in 1917
Tomorrow, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, SY11 1JX.
Call 01743 365478

Bridge Club
Mon, Areley Kings Village Hall, Areley Common, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

ARTS & CULTURE

Spotlight Tour
Today, Sun, Free Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Stitch Social
Today, Creative Coffee Hub, Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215 727300

Making Veganism Easy
Today, Purely Vegan Store, Birmingham, B14 6EB.
Call 0121 443 3211

Short Introductory Talk: Help & Healing on the Spiritual Path through the teaching of Bruno Groening
Tomorrow, Free The Polish Millenium Centre, Birmingham, B5 5PH.
Call 0121 643 3577

Decopatch Craft Workshop
Tomorrow, Creative Coffee Hub, Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215 727300

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Oh Boy! Buddy in rock 'n' roll show

ROCK 'n' roll musical Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story tells the enduring tale of the 1950s music icon's meteoric rise to fame and his final legendary performance before his tragic death in a plane crash at the aged on 22.

The show will be presenting a feast of 50s nostalgia at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

In just 18 months the bespectacled Texas-born singer-songwriter had revolutionised the face of contemporary music, influencing a host of stars from The Beatles to Bruce Springsteen.

The production boasts a multi-talented cast, including Glen Joseph and Alex Fobbester (who alternate the role of Buddy Holly), in a show that presents two hours of music with more than 20 of Buddy's greatest hits, including 'That'll Be The Day', 'Peggy Sue', 'Oh Boy' and 'Rave On'.

Concert

The show recreates the final concert, held at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, Iowa, which also featured Buddy's ill-fated tour mates The Big Bopper, of Chantilly Lace fame, and Ritchie 'La Bamba' Valens.

The show has inspired a generation of multi-million selling jukebox musicals, and has been seen by more than 22 million music fans since it opened in London's West End in 1989.

It has also been endorsed by Buddy's widow, Maria Elena Holly, who said of the show: "We never imagined



The cast of Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story will be rocking the Grand Theatre

Buddy's music and story would still be rocking stages and entertaining audiences around the world week-in week-out. I believe this is testament to a great show – the first of its kind – and to the enduring appeal of Buddy Holly and what he represents: youthful energy, huge talent and creat-

ity, combined with a determination to make a lasting impression in this world."

Tickets are now on sale by calling 01902 429212, online at grandtheatre.co.uk or by visiting the box office at the Lichfield Street venue in person.



Blues star's homecoming

JOANNE Shaw Taylor is the Black Country's own queen of the blues, who relocated to the US to forge her career and is at long last recognised in her homeland – judging by the sold out notices for her homecoming gig at Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday.

Last year the 30-year-old singer and guitarist from Wednesbury released her sixth album, *Wild*, which was recorded in Nashville's Grand Victor Sound Studios with top producer Kevin Shirley, who has also worked with Led Zeppelin, Journey, Iron Maiden, Black Stone Cherry and supergroup Black Country Communion.

"Recording at Grand Victor was incredibly inspiring," said Joanne. "It is quite the legendary studio. Dolly Parton cut *Jolene* and I Will Always Love You here. And Chet Atkins worked here. Basically, if there was a hit record out of Nashville, it was made here. I am very proud of this album, and I can't wait for everyone to hear it."

That album caught the ear of bosses at Jools Holland's *Later* TV music show, who gave the blues star a slot on the show in October.

She was still a schoolgirl with an obsession for the music in her dad's record collection – such as Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan – when former Eurythmics star and producer Dave Stewart spotted her considerable musical potential and she went on to release debut album *White Sugar* in 2009.

Joanne played lead guitar in Annie Lennox's band at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Concert outside Buckingham Palace in 2012 and her blues work has gained such celebrity fans as Stevie Wonder and top guitarist Joe Bonamassa.

From Russia, and China, with love

CLASSICAL music enthusiasts can mark Chinese New Year with an East meets West concert at the Elgar Concert Hall at the University of Birmingham tomorrow (Friday) with pianist Di Xiaoxi, cellist Jiaxin Lloyd Webber and harpist Eleanor Turner.

Other highlights are at Symphony Hall. On Sunday afternoon (also February 2 afternoon) CBSO perform Beethoven's Fifth, conducted by Mirga Grazinyte-Tyla, plus Mozart's final concerto, with pianist Francesco Piemontesi. On Wednesday night Vasily Petrenko conducts Russian greats for Royal Liverpool Philharmonic with pianist Daniil Trifonov.

Name drop in to ruin a dinner party

THE choice of the name 'Adolf' for a baby is revealed at a dinner party, leading to a furious row in ferocious farce *What's In A Name?*, which gets its UK premiere at Birmingham Rep tomorrow (Friday) at the start of a two-week run.

Based on the French stage and film sensation *Le Prenom*, by Matthieu Delaporte and Alexandre de La Patelliere, the dark comedy has been adapted and directed by Jeremy Sams. The cast includes Sarah Hadland, best known as Miranda Hart's TV sidekick Stevie, and former *EastEnders* actor Nigel Harman. See birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

Fans grateful for day of the Dead

IT'S the day of the Dead at Bilston's Robin 2 venue in Bilston on Wednesday when the 50th anniversary of Live/Dead, by legendary San Francisco hippy group The Grateful Dead. It is performed by a veteran band featuring former Grateful Dead pianist Tom Constanten with Jefferson Starship alumni.

Moving from the Bay to Birkenhead, those wry post-punk indie satirists Half Man Half Biscuit visit the Robin on Thursday, February 2. Before that, the Robin hosts classic rock with Atomic Rooster and Snafu on Friday, The Quireboys (unplugged) on Sunday and New York's Tyketto on Monday.

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CHOICE



Gary Barlow

Let It Shine (BBC1, 7pm)
Graham Norton and Mel Giedroyc are on hand to present the final round of auditions, as more would-be pop princes submit their vocal skills for approval by judges Gary Barlow, Dannii Minogue, Martin Kemp and departing panel member Amber Riley. As with the previous three rounds, each of the singers needs to secure at least 15 stars from the four assembled judges, each of whom will be rating the performances out of five stars. Should they prove successful, the auditionees progress to the next stage of the contest, in which their dance skills will be put to the test in collaborations with some of Britain's most popular musical acts.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Best Dishes Ever. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Tennis: Australian Open Highlights. 2.30 Live Bowls: World Indoor Championships. The men's singles semi-finals. 4.30 Final Score. 5.10 BBC News. 5.20 Regional Programme. 5.30 Who Dares Wins. 6.10 **Pointless Celebrities. Diane Louise Jordan, the Rev Richard Coles, Nancy Dell'Olio, Matt Barbet, Sharron Davies, Mark Foster, Cyle Bransford and Susan Calman all take part in the unorthodox quiz show. 7.00 **Let It Shine.** The final round of auditions arrives, along with Amber Riley's last appearance as a judge, as one last set of would-be pop princes display their vocal abilities for the panel. 8.25 **Casualty.** Alicia is surprised to discover her long-estranged parents Howard and Jackie are planning to give their marriage another go. However, when old family friend Martin turns up at their surprise anniversary party, and seems to have a falling-out with Howard, it soon becomes clear there is a secret third wheel in their relationship. Meanwhile, Charlie balances his over-zealous wedding-planning with caring for a reluctant teenage football star, and Cal's trust in Alicia is tested when he discovers she has a secret phone hidden in her locker. 9.15 **Taboo.** As both the Crown and London turn against him, James Delaney enlists the depraved chemist Chomondley into his company, and Lorna aims to prove she is anything but a weak link. 10.10 **BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.** 10.30 **MOTD: FA Cup Highlights.** Gabby Logan presents highlights of the latest FA Cup round, including Tottenham Hotspur v Wycombe Wanderers, and Middlesbrough v Accrington Stanley. 11.55 **The NFL Show.** Mark Chapman looks at the major stories shaping the NFL world, joined by former Super Bowl winners Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell. 12.25 **Film: A Few Best Men.** (2011) Comedy, starring Xavier Samuel. 1.55 **Weather for the Week Ahead. 2.00 BBC News.****

BBC2

6.35 Film: Adventure in Baltimore. (1949) Period comedy, starring Shirley Temple. **8.05 Film: Little Women.** (1949) Oscar-winning drama, starring June Allyson. **10.00 Secret Britain. (R) 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 12.00 Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. (R) 1.00 Film: Kismet.** (1955) Musical fantasy, starring Howard Keel. **2.50 Flog It! (R) 3.25 The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. (R) 4.25 Mastermind. (R) 4.55 University Challenge. (R) 5.25 Only Connect. (R) 5.55 Film: Finding Neverland.** (2004) Fact-based period drama, starring Johnny Depp. 7.30 **Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney.** Andy Torbet dives below the waves in search of the inspiration for the first stone circle, while Chris Packham and Neil Oliver spend the night on an abandoned island as they hunt for clues as to why cultures change. Meanwhile, Shini Somara tests the technology behind a bronze age sauna and the archaeologists uncover a remarkable find. Last in the series. (R) 8.30 **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring and his platoon have their hands full with two German prisoners and the arrival of a suspicious Polish captain, while Walker seizes a way to make easy money. Comedy first broadcast in 1968, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R) 9.00 **Francis Bacon: A Brush with Violence.** Documentary exploring just how much of Francis Bacon's notoriety as a rude, drunken loudmouth was a carefully curated front he maintained to protect the complex and haunted man behind his own myth. Making use of interviews with celebrity commentators, fellow artists, and some of the people who knew him best, this programme sets out to deconstruct the perceived and hidden identities of the man known as one of the most sought-after British artists of the 20th century. 10.20 **Film: The Sapphires.** (2012) Four Aboriginal Australian singers are propelled to stardom when they entertain American troops in the Vietnam War. Drama, starring Deborah Mailman and Chris O'Dowd. 12.00 **Bowls: World Indoor Championships. 1.00 Film: Love Is the Devil.** (1998) 2.25 This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Sooty. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.00 Super 4. (R) 7.15 Oddbods. (R) 7.20 Oddbods. (R) 7.30 Scrambled! Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled! Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Scrambled! Horrid Henry. (R) 8.10 Scrambled! Teen Titans Go! (R) 8.30 Scrambled! Bear Grylls Survival School. 9.05 Scrambled! Adventure Time. (R) 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Rebound. (R) 10.25 Guess This House. (R) 11.25 Judge Rinder. (R) 12.15 ITV News; Weather. 12.35 River Monsters. (R) 1.05 Big Star's Little Star. (R) 2.05 Tipping Point. (R) 3.05 The Chase. (R) 4.05 Dance Dance Dance. (R) 5.35 Regional Programme; Weather. 5.45 ITV News; Weather. 6.00 **You've Been Framed! King Size! Harry Hill showcases some of the biggest disasters captured in video form by viewers at home. 7.00 **Ninja Warrior UK.** Competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. 8.00 **The Voice UK. Celebrity "coaches"** Will.i.am, Tom Jones, Jennifer Hudson and Gavin Rossdale preside over the fourth instalment of the Blind Auditions phase of the singing contest. As ever, the celebrity panel must decide whether to lend their support to each act with their backs turned to the performer, allowing only the contestants' voice to play a part in the selection process. However, as places on each coach's team begin to fill up, competition for the remaining spots in the next round will be more fierce than ever. 9.30 **Through the Keyhole.** Comedian and game-show host Paddy McGuinness, and presenters Caroline Flack and Dave Berry join Keith Lemon to guess: "who habitates in a house like this?". 10.30 **ITV News; Weather.** 10.45 **Film: Cliffhanger.** (1993) A retired mountain rescue expert is drawn into a battle of wits with a criminal searching for a lost fortune in the Rockies. Thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone and John Lithgow. 12.45 **Jackpot247. 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.****

CHANNEL 4

6.20 The King of Queens. (R) 6.45 The King of Queens. (R) 7.10 The King of Queens. (R) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 9.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.20 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.50 The Simpsons. (R) 11.20 The Simpsons. (R) 11.50 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) 12.50 Come Dine with Me. (R) 1.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 1.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 2.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 2.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 3.25 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) 4.30 Location, Location, Location. (R) 5.35 Grand Designs. (R) 6.30 **Channel 4 News. 7.00 **Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages.** Penelope Keith seeks out remarkable communities in Argyll and Bute, where she learns about the local Viking saga in Mull, and explores how the Crican Canal created one of Scotland's most beautiful short cuts. The presenter also visits Mount Stuart House on the Isle of Bute, watches a game of shinty in Tighnabruich, and visits the island of Easdale, a place without roads and cars. (R) 8.00 **Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Pamela Scales explore a network that is completely new to them as they embark on a voyage across the Netherlands. Their journey takes them to the gardens of Keukenhof and the Feylers Museum in Haarlem, before they arrive in Amsterdam, where they tour the capital's canal district - the Grachtengordel. (R) 9.00 **Film: The Monuments Men.** (2014) Premiere. Seven experts in fine art are assembled into a military platoon during the Second World War, and given an unusual mission. They are sent into occupied Europe to recover priceless works of art that have fallen into Nazi hands and ensure the masterpieces survive the conflict. Fact-based drama, directed by and starring George Clooney, with Matt Damon, Bill Murray and Kate Blanchett. 11.20 **Film: Haywire.** (2011) A mercenary working for the US government is betrayed by one of her employers and goes in search of revenge. Action thriller, with Gina Carano. 1.05 **The Last Leg. (R) 2.00 Hollyoaks. 4.00 Hoarder SOS. (R)****

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 The Fairly OddParents. (R) 10.30 The Hotel Inspector. (R) 11.25 Film: Gold. (1974) **1.50 Big Bash Cricket Final: Highlights.** Action from the final. **3.20 The Yorkshire Vet. (R) 4.20 The Yorkshire Vet. (R) 5.20 The Yorkshire Vet. (R)** 6.15 **Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords.** A tenant who turned out to be a confidence trickster and a letting agent who locked a couple out of their own buy-to-let investment property. (R) 7.05 **NCIS: Los Angeles.** The team investigates when a dishonourably discharged marine is accused of beating a Japanese tourist to death, having already been linked with the rape of a businesswoman's daughter. He claims that he is in love with the girl he is alleged to have raped, and that the accusations being thrown in his direction are a fabrication initiated by her father. 8.00 **NCIS.** A young Navy Seaman is found dead, with his eyes gouged out, after being involved in a car accident. Director Vance makes a rare return to field duty, pairing up with Gibbs to investigate when it becomes clear the killing seems to be connected to the case of Kip Klugman, a former NCIS agent he once locked up for stealing evidence. 8.55 **5 News Weekend.** 9.00 **Football on 5: The Championship.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce action from the latest fixtures, which included Aston Villa v Bristol City, Norwich City v Birmingham City, and Reading v Cardiff City. 9.30 **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the latest matches in Leagues One and Two, including Bristol Rovers v Swindon Town, and Yeovil Town v Doncaster Rovers. 10.00 **Celebrity Big Brother.** Highlights of the housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they cope with living alongside one another. 11.05 **Body Freaks: Old Face, New Face.** Documentary following people who have had extreme cosmetic transformations. (R) 12.00 **SuperCasino. 3.10 Celebrity Big Brother. (R) 4.00 Celebrity Botched Up Bodies. (R) 4.50 Divine Designs. (R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Crossing England in a Punt: River of Dreams 8.00 Treasures of the Indus 9.00 Lost Kingdoms of Central America 10.00 The Young Montalbano 11.55 Top of the Pops: 1983 12.35 Otis Redding: Soul Ambassador 1.40 Classic Soul at the BBC 2.40 Sing's Motown 3.40 Close
ITV2
11.00 **Ninja Warrior UK 12.00 Take Me Out Celebrity Special 1.00 You've Been Framed! Gold 2.05 Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) 3.05 FYI Daily 3.10 Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) 4.05 Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) 5.05 FYI Daily 5.10 Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) 5.50 Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) 6.50 FYI Daily 6.55 Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) 8.00 Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) 9.00 FYI Daily 9.05 Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) 11.10 Family Guy 12.40 American Dad! 1.35 The Cleveland Show 2.00 Dads 2.25 Safeword 3.00 Teleshopping
ITV3
2.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 4.00 Midsomer Murders 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 Lewis 1.05 Blue Murder 2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping
ITV4
11.00 **Film: The Man from the Alamo (1953) 12.05 FYI Daily 12.10 Film: The Man from the Alamo (1953) 12.45 Storage Wars 1.15 ITV Racing Live from Cheltenham and Doncaster. Coverage of today's race meetings at Cheltenham and Doncaster. 4.30 Film: Lawman (1971) 5.30 FYI Daily 5.35 Film: Lawman (1971) 6.30 Prawn Stars 7.00 Darts: The Masters Live. Coverage of day two from Milton Keynes. 11.00 Film: Resident Evil (2002) 12.00 FYI Daily 12.05 Film: Resident Evil (2002) 1.05 River Monsters 2.05 Storage Wars 2.30 Sporting Funnies 2.40 ITV4 Nightscreen
E4
12.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 1.00 Film: School of Rock (2003) 3.15 Rude (ish) Tube Shorts 3.30 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: X-Men: First Class (2011) 11.35 Gogglebox 1.15 First Dates 2.25 Virtually Famous 3.05 Chewing Gum 3.30 Revenge 4.55 The Goldbergs
Film4
12.00 The Poseidon Adventure (1972) 1.20 The House of Magic (2013) 5.05 Clueless (1995) 6.55 Millions (2004) 8.50 Loving Interview Special 9.00 Slumdog Millionaire (2008) 11.25 Yakuza Apocalypse (2015) 1.40 R100 (2013)****

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CHOICE



Emily Watson

Apple Tree Yard (BBC1, 9pm)
Yvonne shuts down in the aftermath of the attack, unable to report the crime to the police or open up to her husband. Things only get worse when her attacker begins stalking her, progressing from e-mails to following her. Terrified, she turns to Costley for support. He arranges a meeting at a safe house and she becomes tempted to enlist his help in getting revenge. Gary makes a startling admission on the morning that Yvonne prepares to accompany Costley as he seeks out her attacker – which leads her into an even worse situation.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **11.50** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. **2.00** BBC News: Weather. **2.30** The Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.00** Songs of Praise. **3.35** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Manchester United v Wigan Athletic (Kick-off 4.00pm).
6.05 BBC News.
6.20 Regional Programme.
6.30 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison present the show from the Peak District. Matt investigates a project to protect the area's moorland, while Ellie meets a photographer and a mountaineer working together on an unusual collaboration. Edith Bowman explores the East Neuk of Fife. Tom Heap reports on broadband access in rural areas, and Adam Henson completes his journey across New Zealand.
7.30 Still Open All Hours. A mysterious woman comes looking for Eric, and Kath is not convinced by his claims to have no idea who she is. Granville tries to promote the medicinal qualities of turnips.
8.00 Call the Midwife. Sister Ursula insists the midwives do not become emotionally involved with their patients, but her harsh new approach proves hard to cope with in the face of two devastating cases. A father-to-be is badly injured in an explosion, leaving him unable to work to support his family, and a couple with dwarfism expecting their first child are warned that their child may be stillborn.
9.00 Apple Tree Yard. Yvonne is stalked by her attacker and is unable to talk to either her husband or the police. She turns to Costley for support, only to find herself plunged into a greater nightmare.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. The latest matches in the FA Cup fourth round, which included Millwall v Watford, Fulham v Hull City, and Manchester United v Wigan Athletic.
11.20 The Boy Who Tried to Kill Trump.
12.05 The Celebrity Apprentice USA.
1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Coast. (R) **7.15** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **8.00** An Island Parish: Anguilla. (R) **8.30** The Edible Garden. (R) **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **12.00** Figure Skating: European Championships. **1.00** Tennis: Australian Open Highlights. **2.30** Live Bowls: World Indoor Championships. The men's singles final.
5.15 Yellowstone: The Blazing Summer. (R)
6.15 Ski Sunday. Including action from the World Cup night slalom in Schladming, Austria, and the women's downhill event staged in Cortina, Italy.
7.00 City in the Sky. Dallas Campbell and Dr Hannah Fry examine the advanced technology needed to ensure the safety of the one million people estimated to be travelling by plane at any given time. They discover the daily routines of air traffic controllers in the busiest airspace in the world and pilots flying thousands of miles at night. Plus, transporting horses by planes and in-flight medical advice. (R)
8.00 Dragons' Den. The panel assesses the profit-making potential of a range of dolls inspired by history, a new kind of bicycle indicator light, and a honey-infused drink made by beekeepers.
9.00 Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week. New series. Reggie Yates hosts the military training challenge. The recruits are put through their paces by a former colonel in the South African Special Forces Brigade.
10.00 Ol XL. Guests Colin Lane, Sarah Millican and Noel Fielding join regular panellist Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig to contemplate the theme "numbers" in this extended episode.
10.45 Live at the Apollo. Sarah Millican presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo, with rising star Tom Allen and US comedian Jay Barker. (R)
11.30 Film: The Cider House Rules. (1999) A doctor's assistant living in the orphanage where he grew up sets out to see more of life, but faces difficult moral decisions. Drama, starring Tobey Maguire and Michael Caine.
1.30 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.30** Holby City. (R) **3.30** This Is BBC Two.
5.30 Secrets of the Mona Lisa. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** Film: Epic. (2013) Animated adventure, with the voice of Amanda Seyfried. **4.30** Channel 4 News. **4.55** Film: Avatar. (2009) Sci-fi adventure, starring Sam Worthington.
8.00 Walking the Americas. The final leg of Levison Wood's journey brings him to Panama, where he ventures through the Darien Gap, one of the world's most dangerous stretches of jungle, to reach Colombia. He also visits the Panama Canal, explores an uncharted cave that is home to vampire bats, and spends some time with an indigenous tribe living deep in the jungle. Last in the series.
9.00 Homeland. Carrie and Reda battle for their client, Quinn fights against his new life, and Saul and Dar suspect Keane has a secret. Claire Danes and Rupert Friend star.
10.05 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers quiz, as Jon Richardson and David O'Doherty take on Johnny Vegas and Jamie Laing. Holly Walsh helps out in Dictionary Corner. (R)
11.00 Film: Sleepy Hollow. (1999) A sceptical 18th-century detective takes on a headless horseman who decapitates his victims. Tim Burton's gothic horror, with Johnny Depp, Christina Ricci and Miranda Richardson.
1.00 How to Lose Weight Well. Dr Xand van Tulleken and dietitian Hala El-Shafie help a student to slim down for her graduation day, and a groom also attempts to lose weight. (R) **1.55** Heston's Great British Food. A twist on the classic British afternoon tea, featuring a cake stand made out of sponge, a Darjeeling and hedgerow brew and an edible sandwich casino. (R) **2.50** The Autistic Gardener. Award-winning designer Alan Gardner and his team of fellow autistic horticultural enthusiasts radically update a couple's neglected plot in north east London. (R) **3.40** Win It Cook It. Two more teams of contestants answer questions to win a selection of today's mixed bag of ingredients. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** Film: Epic. (2013) Animated adventure, with the voice of Amanda Seyfried. **4.30** Channel 4 News. **4.55** Film: Avatar. (2009) Sci-fi adventure, starring Sam Worthington.
8.00 Walking the Americas. The final leg of Levison Wood's journey brings him to Panama, where he ventures through the Darien Gap, one of the world's most dangerous stretches of jungle, to reach Colombia. He also visits the Panama Canal, explores an uncharted cave that is home to vampire bats, and spends some time with an indigenous tribe living deep in the jungle. Last in the series.
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CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.00** Seaside Antics. (R) **7.10** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.55** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** The Fairly OddParents. (R) **10.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.00** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors Unleashed. (R) **12.00** Dads Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **1.00** Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **2.00** Film: The First Wives Club. (1996) Revenge comedy, starring Goldie Hawn, Bette Midler and Diane Keaton. **4.00** Film: Miss Congeniality. (2000) Comedy, starring Sandra Bullock.
6.10 Film: Leap Year. (2010) A woman plans to take advantage of an Irish tradition to propose to her boyfriend while on holiday in Dublin. When they become separated, she faces a disastrous journey across the country in the company of a charming local innkeeper, and is tempted to leave her boyfriend for her travelling companion. Romantic comedy, starring Amy Adams, Matthew Goode and Adam Scott.
8.00 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 4. Iain Lee narrates a compilation of internet videos featuring cats doing bizarre and humorous things. With contributions from Andi Osho, Felicity Ward and Scott Capurro.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The remaining housemates embark on their final week, knowing only one of them can be crowned Celebrity Big Brother winner on Friday night.
10.00 Film: Life As We Know It. (2010) Premiers. Two people who do not get on are forced to live together when they are named guardians of their dead friends' baby daughter. Comedy, starring Katherine Heigl. Includes 5 News Update at 1pm.
12.15 Film: Going the Distance. (2010) **2.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Film: Saw. The Final Chapter. (2010) **4.40** Accus. **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 David Starkey's Music & Monarchy
8.00 British History's Biggest Fibs with Lucy Worsley **9.00** Rich Hall's You Can Go to Hell, I'm Going to Texas **10.30** Film: Under the Rainbow (2013) **12.15** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **1.15** Sound of Musicals with Neil Brand **2.15** Bollywood and Beyond: A Century of Indian Cinema **3.45** Close
ITV2
11.30 The Voice UK **1.00** 2Awesome **1.05** 2Awesome: Guidance **1.40** 2Awesome: Side Effects **2.20** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.40** 2Awesome: LA Story **3.00** Film: Inspector Gadget (1999) **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05** Film: Inspector Gadget (1999) **4.35** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **5.35** FYI Daily **5.40** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **8.00** Film: Skyfall (2012) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** Film: Skyfall (2012) **10.45** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.45** The Cleveland Show **2.10** The Hot Desk: Louisa Johnson **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.50 Wycliffe **1.55** Film: Columbo: Agenda for Murder (1990) **4.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** This Time Next Year **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** Film: Changeling (2008) **11.35** FYI Daily **11.40** Film: Changeling (2008) **1.20** A Touch of Frost **3.10** May the Best House Win **4.55** On the Buses **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
12.45 Darts: The Masters Live. **5.00** The Darts Show **5.55** Mr Bean **7.00** Darts: The Masters Live. The semi-finals and final from Milton Keynes. **11.00** Film: Barb Wire (1996) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: Barb Wire (1996) **1.00** River Monsters **2.05** Hell on Wheels **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
3.00 The Big Bang Theory: Superheroes **7.00** Film: X-Men (2000) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. **11.00** Film: Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (2011) **11.50** Britain's Favourite Superhero **1.30** Tattoo Fixers **2.30** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. **3.15** Rude(ish) Tube **3.35** Hollyoaks
Film4
1.00 The Love Bug (1968) **3.10** The Borrowers (1997) **4.50** Sunshine on Leith (2013) **6.50** The River Wild (1994) **9.00** Now You See Me (2013) **11.15** Spring Breakers (2012) **1.05** The Kingdom of Dreams and Madness (2013) **3.30** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Hidden Truth: Lies Will Surface, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A young woman is forced to prove her brother's innocence after a teenage girl is found murdered in a California town. But she discovers a disturbing dark side to the community, and the hidden identity of the killer. Thriller, starring Shawn Christian. (2016)

TUESDAY

Fatal Memories, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Successful lawyer Sutton is confronted by a horrific scene when she returns to her family home to find her mother has been brutally stabbed to death, and her troubled younger sister April standing over the body with a bloodied knife. Despite the overwhelming evidence against her sibling, Sutton is convinced April is innocent, and sets out prove it. Mystery thriller, starring Italia Ricci and Magda Apanowicz. (2015)

WEDNESDAY

Nightmare from the Past, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Two decades after four high school students accidentally killed a mansion's owner, a mother faces a ghost from her youth in the form of the obsessed ex-con who paid the price for the friends' crimes. Thriller, starring Ashley Scott. (2015)



The Guardian, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

THURSDAY

Garage Sale Mystery 7: The Art of Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm
While busy preparing for a charity garage sale event, an antique store owner discovers a body in the attic of a nearby home. Using her eye for detail, as well as her experience with antiques and murder, she sets about putting together clues to help catch a killer. Drama, starring Lori Loughlin. (2016)

FRIDAY

The Guardian, BBC1, 11.55pm
A distinguished coastguard is recruited to prepare the next generation of aspiring search and rescue specialists. He meets his match with a talented and troubled rookie – a high-school swimming champion who is determined to inherit the instructor's crown. However, throughout the rigorous training the pair forge a strong friendship and settle the struggle for authority. Drama, with Kevin Costner. (2006)

Coastal journey brings back the memories

The United Kingdom has one of the world's most varied coastal landscapes, from sweeping sands and rugged cliffs, to spits and mudflats. Then there's the wealth of historic fishing villages and colourful seaside towns which attract many visitors every year.

In his latest travelogue, Robson Green explores some of Blighty's most intriguing stretches of coastline and discovers what it is about the shoreline that continues to inspire.

"Throughout my life, I've always felt happiest when near the sea," he explains. "I grew up close to the coast, and I've swam or fished off the shores of more than a 100 different countries. Now I want to explore the very edges of Britain."

The actor and presenter travels to four very different stretches of coastline, and meets people who share his passion for our shores.

In the first episode he's off to a 90-mile stretch of North Devon coast that holds childhood memories for him. His eponymous star takes a boat ride 10-miles southwest of Bideford, to the

a town that attracts thousands of visitors every summer.

"There are parts of North Devon that make you feel like you're stepping back in time," explains Robson. "So I'm hoping this journey will help me understand just how and why our love affair with the coast began."

Our Victorian ancestors' desire to be beside the seaside was so great, they would often go to extraordinary lengths to access the best places to soak up the sun. Privately owned tidal pools, with steep cliffs offered the perfect shelter for bathing, but they could only be accessed by boat, so almost 200 years ago, hundreds of Welsh miners were tasked with carving a network of tunnels through the cliffs, to open the pools up to the public.

Aside from investigating a Victorian invention designed to avoid embarrassing swimwear mishaps while changing, Green also sees how the high tidal ranges and craggy rocks make the perfect habitat for marine life.

Following a night under canvas, the eponymous star takes a boat ride 10-miles southwest of Bideford, to the

port of Clovelly. With its cobbled streets and 13th-century harbour, the village evokes the character and atmosphere of a bygone age.

Given its picturesque appeal, there's little wonder it has featured in film versions of Sense and Sensibility and Treasure Island. However, after arriving in this quiet seaside village, Robson is involved in a true life drama and a real rescue mission.

Later, he visits Lundy, a dozen miles off the North Devon coast; it's one of the UK's most unspoiled islands. However, just getting there proves to be a struggle, thanks to the Bristol Channel whose choppy waters leave the star a little green around the gills.

With feet back on terra firma, he's soon suspended precariously over it as he scales the sea cliff on the west side of the island known as the Devil's Slide. At 400-feet in length, it's the largest slab of granite in Europe.

Once a pop star, it seems Robson is now keen on becoming a rock star, but as the show reveals, it's not long before his mind starts playing tricks on him.



Tales from the Coast with Robson Green, Tuesday, ITV, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Undercover: Britain's Cheap Clothes - Channel 4 Dispatches

Channel 4, 8pm
The British public have certainly taken internet shopping to their hearts – a few years ago, Black Friday and Cyber Monday were largely unknown concepts in the UK, but this year these pre-Christmas sales days saw us spend almost £6.5billion online. In her continuing investigation into Britain's cheap clothing market, Morland Sanders looks into what the home-delivery economy boom means for the workers in some of the 1,500 warehouses that have sprung up in Britain to service these orders. Secret filming shows the realities of operatives walking miles of floorspace a day to make sure the clothes are dispatched during the busiest time of year and also asks what happens if an employee is unwell, turns up late or doesn't want to work overtime.

TUESDAY

Further Back in Time for Dinner

BBC2, 8pm
The Robshaw family enter the turbulent 1910s and the First World War turns all their lives upside down, putting Rochelle back in the kitchen instead of servant Debbie. Never a natural cook, she struggles

to feed the family as supplies start to run out and the war puts an end to their previously carefree lives. However, the decade has its positives too with the freedom of a bike ride and an idyllic picnic, and a visit from celebrity chef John Torode - but even he cannot salvage something tasty from 1918's fish sausages.

WEDNESDAY

DIY SOS: The Big Build

BBC1, 9pm
There was a time when the original DIY SOS was just Nick Knowles and a bunch of mates having a laugh as they raced against the clock to transform peoples' houses, and lives. Then the projects became more serious as it became obvious that viewers in floods of tears equalled good ratings. The Big Build continues to pluck at the heart strings with one of the most moving editions to date. Nick, Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen and the team are in the Worcestershire village of Eckington to help 17-year-old Antonia Payne-Cheney. She has a rare condition called Ehlers-Danlos syndrome that causes her joints to regularly dislocate. And because she can't eat normally, she has

to be fed through a tube. The builders need to create a sterile space for medical procedures in her bedroom, a specially adapted wet room and an area where she can socialise with friends and family. Have those hankies on stand-by. You may need them.

THURSDAY

Parenting for Idiots

Channel 4, 10pm
New series. Light-hearted documentary in which a cast of famous faces reveal the many sides of modern parenting in a succession of magic moments and horror stories, while child-free celebrities experience the realities of looking after a child for the first time. Episode one focuses on the different types of chaos that ensue from having children, with Sally Phillips discussing living with nits, Frankie Boyle

revealing how his children embarrass him, and Andrew Flintoff divulging a few truths about the Tooth Fairy. Plus, non-parents Jamie Laing and Mark-Francis Vandelli get a taste of parenthood by looking after a five-month-old baby for the day.

FRIDAY

Celebrity Big Brother: Live Final

Channel 5, 9pm
After four-and-a-half weeks of nominations, tasks, evictions and walkouts, the nail-biting moment has finally arrived for the remaining All Stars and New Stars to hear the public's verdict. Emma Willis whittles them down one by one until this year's winner is known – but not before Marcus Bentley narrates highlights of their last day in the house.

Tracey Ullman's Show

BBC1, 9.30pm
New series. The start of a fresh run of comedy sketches featuring the talented entertainer, who made her name in the UK in the early 1980s before settling for some time in the United States. Delinquent Dame Judi Dench is back, but will being a National Treasure be enough to save her this time? Ambitious politician Nicola Sturgeon has her sights set on more than just Scotland, while there's a heartfelt song from German leader Angela Merkel.



Tracey Ullman's Show, Friday, BBC1, 9.30pm

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BRAIN GYM No.413

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

10 13 14 15 21 5 13 14 23 4 2 18 17

5 12 17 23 17 17

13 14 9 21 10 2 13 2 23 10

22 11 18 6 21 23 22 10

26 2 26 9 7 3 2 2

18 14 12 2 5 25 9 13 22 13

14 2 14

21 7 13 9 15 8 1 17 20 21

10 2 25 9 10 2 13 9

17 1 18 24 2 22 11 18

7 19 22 13 2 21 14 11 7

3 16 14 20 18 2

24 17 2 18 1 17 4 20 10 21 14 13

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

F J O N T W K S Z Y C L E

V B P A G D X I Q R U M H

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. No ride smoothed out (6)
8. Develop half-love after love returned (6)
10. Cruel, as outside the church (7)
11. Knotty points for those voting against - about 500 (5)
12. In addition; I object about alternative indicator (4)
13. Night object (5)
17. External appearance of ropes, say (5)
18. Court dunderhead in the trees (4)
22. It's all right to bring father back to take one animal (5)
23. About to beat, drive back (7)
24. Trance-producing drink (6)
25. Took part in musical game, perhaps (6)

Down

1. Charming, maybe, but won't charm everybody's heart (7)
2. 100 having a sure winner in entertainment (7)
3. Part of 9 is nothing more than a prisoner's room (5)
4. Getting everybody on a level at the end of the day? (7)
5. Go smoothly along with learner in the team (5)
6. Stop 100 getting relief (5)
9. Roar madly about box with instruments in it (9)
14. Make false claim about America being notably harmonious (7)
15. Simultaneous discharges of missiles on court? (7)
16. A theologian to finish article in appendix (7)
19. Meat in the meeting place (5)
20. When steps are taken by the troops? (5)
21. Fruit to put very quietly in drink (5)

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Fixed (6)
8. Cope (6)
10. Speech (7)
11. Boats (5)
12. Solitude (4)
13. Niggard (5)
17. Hold up (5)
18. Stockings (4)
22. Commerce (5)
23. Detestable (7)
24. Trust (6)
25. Decisive moment (6)

Down

1. Foretell (7)
2. Affect (7)
3. Lukewarm (5)
4. School bag (7)
5. Heathen (5)
6. Pier (5)
9. Aversion (9)
14. Fault (7)
15. Admit (7)
16. Hermit (7)
19. Adhere (5)
20. Hesitate (5)
21. Tale (5)

Sudoku

7 9 1 6 3 4

2 7 5 6 3

4 9 3 2 4

6 5 3 4

4 8 9 6 7

7 8 2 9 1

4 8 6

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1 6 8 2 9 7 5 4 3

7 9 4 6 3 5 2 8 1

2 3 5 1 4 8 9 6 7

8 2 7 3 1 9 6 5 4

5 1 6 4 8 2 3 7 9

3 4 9 7 5 6 8 1 2

4 5 3 8 2 1 7 9 6

6 8 1 9 7 3 4 2 5

9 7 2 5 6 4 1 3 8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 1 All up; 4 Lunatic; 8 Conduct; 9 Wooper; 10 Most; 11 Entrance; 13 Dive; 14 Here; 16 Accurate; 17 Open; 20 Image; 21 Remorse; 22 Greatly; 23 Treat.

Down: 1 Accommodating; 2 Lines; 3 Pout; 4 Latent; 5 Newsreel; 6 Trounce; 7 Correspondent; 12 Overheat; 13 Declare; 15 Stormy; 18 Purge; 19 Enit.

QUICK - Across: 1 Repel; 4 Reprisal; 8 Project; 9 Topic; 10 Ease; 11 Decrease; 13 Deed; 14 Gain; 16 Severity; 17 Maze; 20 Barge; 21 Inksome; 22 Element; 23 Press.

Down: 1 Reprehensible; 2 Pious; 3 Lees; 4 Rather; 5 Paternal; 6 Explain; 7 Secretiveness; 12 Reprieve; 13 Divorce; 15 Strict; 18 Alone; 19 Skip.

Quiz

1. Who wrote the Aldwych farces of the 1920s?
2. Of which well-known effect is red shift an example?
3. In which market town did Judge Jeffreys hold the Bloody Assizes of 1685?
4. Which health resort lies between Lakes Brienz and Thun?
5. Which King Harold was killed at the Battle of Hastings?
6. In which art gallery is the Mona Lisa?
7. Which mathematical functions did John Napier discover in 1614?
8. Between which three fruits is the ugli a cross?
9. Which sugar forms five per cent of cow's milk?
10. Who wrote And Quiet Flows The Don?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Swiss; 2 US Civil War; 3 James

Kelman; 4 The Blue Angel; 5 Menelaus;

6 Manitoba; 7 Four; 8 Sodium; 9 A water

bug; 10 French Revolutionary calendar.

Niner: DISPROVEN

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

26352 gives a blood vessel,

23583489 gives blood vessels,

13247 gives part of the nervous system.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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Photo Finnish – one of the national park lakes in Helsinki surrounded by forest



Hot stuff – Santiago from San Cristobal Hill, Chile



Oh what a sight – the ruins of the ancient city in Paphos Archaeological Park, in Cyprus



King of the jungle – a ring-tailed lemur in Madagascar

Destinations off the beaten track

REMEDY January blues by planning your holidays. Fancy a new experience, here are four overseas locations to top this year's wish-list for far away, and not-so-far-away, destinations.

SANTIAGO, CHILE: Best for long haul

This month, British Airways launch their longest flight, a 14-hour and 40-minute direct route from London Heathrow to Chilean capital, Santiago. (Flights from £680 return if booked in March; www.britishairways.com)

Delve into the life of Nobel Prize-winning poet and political activist Pablo Neruda, the subject of new acclaimed art house film – Neruda – starring Gael Garcia Bernal. Neruda's three eccentric houses have been transformed into museums; two along the coast in Valparaíso and Isla Negra, and one in Santiago's Bellavista district. Visit www.fundacionneruda.org/en for opening times and entry prices.

A 10-minute walk away, across the capital's fast-flowing Mapocho River, lies trendy area Lastarria, home to new boutique hotel

Magnolia. Built in 1929, the former family home has been restored to its former Neo-Gothic glory, with an elegant bar and reading library. Rooms from £145 with breakfast, visit hotelmagnolia.cl

FINLAND: Best for short haul

This December, Finland celebrates 100 years of independence from the Russian Republic, with celebrations and new openings happening throughout 2017.

The most exciting project is the designation of new national park Hossa, in eastern Finland's Kainuu region, which will become the outdoor-loving nation's largest protected nature area.

Hike trails, canoe waterways, or seek out Stone Age rock paintings. Overnight in a cabin or embrace the wilderness by camping; bookings can be made at the Hossa Visitor Centre (www.nationalparks.fi/en/hossavisitorcentre).

Although the woodland setting perfectly matches author Tove Jansson's whimsical imagination, you won't bump into any Moomins in Hossa. Instead, head to Tampere, in June, when the newly renovated Moomin Museum opens, showcasing more than 2,000 pieces of memorabilia (mum-

ilaakso.tampere.fi/en). Everyone is invited to the party from August 25-27, when outdoor tables will be laid across the country for Finland's ambitious Let's Eat Together festival (syodaanyhdessa.fi/en-english).

MADAGASCAR: Best for wildlife

Revered for its endemic wildlife, most notably the charismatic lemur, this African island, lapped by the Indian Ocean, is benefitting from improved infrastructure and accommodation options.

Managed by Norman Carr Safaris, the new Miavana resort sits on Nosy Ankaon, part of a private five-island archipelago off the north-east tip of the mainland. Dissected by lagoons and fringed with reefs, it's ideally located for observing the island's marine bio-diversity.

Visit between June and November to spot migrating humpback whales. To find out more, see www.timeandtideafrica.com/miavana (the property is due to open early 2017).

A more economical option for exploring Madagascar is G Adventures' new eight-day Baobab & Tsingy Explorer trip, focussing on the central region and its famous spiky rock formations. The trip costs from £999

per person, excluding flights; visit www.gadventures.com

PAPHOS, CYPRUS: Best for culture
Offset hours spent snoozing on a sun-lounger by clocking up cultural pursuits in 2017's balmy European Capital of Culture.

Throughout the year, 300 events will be staged against a backdrop of Hellenistic tombs and Roman fortresses in the birthplace of ancient goddess Aphrodite on the island's south-west coast.

A varied programme will include open-air concerts in the medieval Castle Square, cinema screenings on the beach, dance shows in the street and an art exhibition along the Akamas Peninsula. For more details, visit www.pafos2017.eu

The mosaics of Nea Paphos (Aphrodite's Sacred City) are rated among the most beautiful in the world and have earned Unesco World Heritage status. In October, archaeologist Sharon Walker from the British Museum will be hosting a series of workshops about the mosaics at Paphos' sophisticated beachside Almyra hotel. Rooms cost from £86 per night with breakfast; www.thanoshotels.com

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- ✓ Free time in Oxford

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Couple find perfect home thanks to Kier

Kier Living

One of the first families to move to the new Brownhills housing development have praised their new home.

The Espley-Atkin's moved onto Kier Living's Waterside Place development in November when their house was one of the first to be completed on the site.

Recently married in August, the couple purchased the home to start a fresh new chapter in their lives.

Darren, aged 31, a sales executive who works in Reading, and Maria, 41, a receptionist in Cannock, immediately fell in love with the property upon visiting the development for the very first time.

Extras

"We looked at a number of new build developments in the area, but nothing compared to what Kier Living had to offer," said Darren.

"Our home comes complete with many additional extras such as washer/dryer and fridge freezer for example – items that other builders charge for.

"The development is also ideally located for us with great commuter links making it easier to get to work and has plenty of local amenities. We are especially looking forward to taking our pet Labrador Jazz for many walks alongside the nearby canal.

"The idea of decorating our own blank canvas really excites us and we can't wait to make this house our home."

Darren and Maria purchased a 'Fairbourne' three-storey home for them and their children Brad aged 18 and Caitli, 16.

They particularly liked the split level design of the living space, meaning they could have their own space on the top floor while the children enjoyed the sanctuary of their own bedrooms.



CONTACT US

Kier Living

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Web: www.kierliving.co.uk

Having previously rented a property, the couple used the Government-backed Help to Buy scheme to make their move happen.

The initiative allows buyers to purchase a property with only a five per cent deposit and helps to fund up to 20 per cent of the purchase price in the form of an equity loan.

Darren added: "One of the many benefits with moving to a new build is that our monthly

outgoings will be considerably less.

"For a start our monthly mortgage is more or less half of what we used to pay in rent.

"We'll also benefit from reduced heating bills because of the energy efficient build.

"We are very pleased with the design and quality of the house.

"However, if we need any assistance we are comforted in the knowledge that there is a ten

year home warranty and a two year Kier Living customer care programme in place.

"The service we received from Sam the sales advisor was excellent and we had good communication throughout.

"She was quick and responsive and all of the information about Help to Buy was easy to understand.

"It was stress free too as the mortgage adviser

dealt with everything on our behalf.

"We can't praise the staff at Kier Living enough and would highly recommend them to anyone looking to buy a brand new home."

Waterside Place is a stunning development of two, three and four-bedroom homes with prices starting from £133,995.

For more information visit www.kierliving.co.uk

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Quality residences from Cameron Homes

Cameron Homes

Cameron Homes, which is amongst the Midlands' most respected building companies, is creating some superb developments at locations throughout the region in 2017.

High quality residences, all carefully designed and finished to an exacting specification, are being provided by the long-established Staffordshire-based building company.

This means that the new year could mean a fresh start in a brand new Cameron home for many people – and by using one of the company's most successful sales incentives, the move can be a hassle-free reality.

Andy Gough, Sales and Marketing Director of Chasetown-based Cameron, explains that the part exchange scheme is a popular way to purchase a new property.

"Part exchange, where we buy a customers' existing home, worked very well in 2016, with many people taking advantage of it, and we expect it to be just as popular in the coming 12 months. As a family-owned company we pride ourselves not only on the high standard of our properties but also on our excellent customer care and we have a range of other ways to help, such as offering financial advice and guidance," he says.

Cameron has several established developments where the part exchange incentive is available. At Keepers Cross, in Tividale, the company is providing a contemporary collection of 54 two, three and four bedroom homes with excellent links to Dudley, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Customers can choose from 14 stylish layouts, many of which offer garages and en suite master bedrooms.

Bourne Fields is Cameron's flagship development, featuring an elegant collection of



CONTACT US
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14 remarkable five-bedroom residences at an enviable address.

With a premium specification and a desirable location between Aldridge and Streetly, Bourne Fields is the epitome of luxury living. All 14 homes feature everything you'd expect from a showcase Cameron collection, including a stunning kitchen, a sumptuous master suite and spectacular open plan living spaces.

Coney Lodge, in Burntwood, is set back from Rugeley Road and is hidden by mature trees. This is a select development of just eight beautifully-designed three and four-bedroom residences. The collection borders acres of countryside, on the edge of Gentleshaw Common.

At Tatenhill, Staffordshire, Oakhurst is a collection of just eight beautifully designed four-bedroom homes, located approximately three miles from Burton upon Trent. These exclusive residences will each feature an integral garage, a spacious master suite and a modern open plan kitchen with bi-fold doors.

Lakeside Apartments, at Barton under Needwood, is a development of 54 two-bedroom apartments offering the highest standard of specification, security and style. With restaurants, bars and delicatessens on one side and woodland, lakes and towpaths on the other, life at Lakeside Apartments allows you to explore a new side of life every day. The first phase of apartments is anticipated to go on sale early 2017. Cameron's new development in Hill Ridware, a small village near Rugeley, will be called Austen Grange. There will be two phases of properties, with the first going on sale in May, but a total of 48 houses will be provided, including affordable homes. The designs will range from two to five bedroom homes, including detached and semi detached styles. This is set to be one of the company's busiest years and it will be an exciting one too for the many people who move into a new Cameron property.



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Tatton Hall Homes proud to be local

Tatton Hall Homes

Tatton Hall Homes Limited is proud to be a local housebuilder with close links to Wolverhampton and other West Midlands regions.

The company offers stylish 2, 3 and 4 bedroom properties with luxury kitchens and bathrooms as well as barn conversions which provide modern and contemporary living in idyllic locations.

The company is well respected and trusted and works in partnership with Wolverhampton City Council. With a wealth of experience in the housebuilding sector, the company traded successfully throughout the last recession in which many small and medium sized developers failed.

The company supports the community in which it operates. They recruit locally, employing staff from Wolverhampton, Wednesfield, Bilston, Sedgley, Ashmore Park and Essington. They use local suppliers and tradespeople and locally sourced materials wherever possible. Ashmore Glass, Carvers, Howdens, M & G Developments, Newpool Construction and Walter Tippers are contributors to their projects.

The company also works closely with Stourbridge College to provide a Modern Apprenticeship placement.

Tatton Hall Homes Limited recently relocated their office to Deansgate, 62-70, Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton

The Management Team have a thorough knowledge of the areas in which they operate. The importance of purchasing sites within the proximity of good schools is a key feature in the company strategy.

Sites at Broadleaf Gardens, WV3, and Hill Croft Gardens, WV4, are both within easy reach of The Royal School, Wolverhampton. Previously an independent, private school, this is now a state school. The Hill Croft Gardens development, Warstones, was a prize winner in



the 2016 'Built in Quality Awards' as a result of a nomination by Wolverhampton City Council. The site has only 2 properties remaining.

The Broadleaf Gardens development, Birches Barn Road, WV3 7BU, is already selling well and Show Homes will be open for viewing in March. Managing Director, Carl Tatton, understands the need for new homes in the area. He is especially keen to promote the

Government-backed Help to Buy Scheme advising that the scheme can make a house purchase a reality.

Carl says: "Buying a property can be cheaper than renting. Recent press articles may have given the impression that the Help to Buy Scheme has ended. Only the Mortgage Guarantee element has ceased. The normal Help to Buy Equity Loan remains available at

present. With the scheme, only 5% deposit is needed to purchase any of our properties. This is the lowest deposit available. Importantly, the scheme is available to first time buyers as well as those who own a property."

Carl adds: "New homes have much to offer. Improved building regulations and modern materials mean higher building specifications than in older properties and cheaper energy

costs. With standard security features, two year appliance warranties, no time consuming maintenance or repairs and 10-year structural warranties a new home is a sensible investment".

To find out more about properties on offer and the benefits and terms and conditions of the Help to Buy Scheme contact the Sales Team on 07496 087045.



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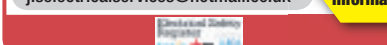
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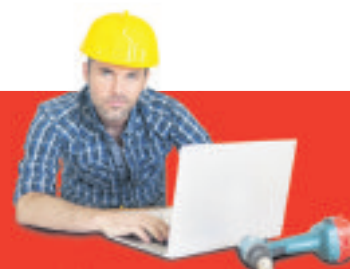


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SARA, 43, educated, independent, attractive female, nervous about dating through advertising, so pls don't disappoint me by not replying. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425703

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

JEAN, 40, 5ft slim, busty blonde, new to dating and fed up of going through the pub scene, WLTW down to earth male for adult company. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425671

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

MICHELLE, 34, blonde blue eyed happy female, loves heels and being feminine, OHAC, self sufficient, looking for male for long term romance and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425669

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

MARIE, very attractive curvy widow, longing for romance, seeking country loving male with old fashioned values for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425599

HI Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely brunette, seeking someone with GSQH, looks unimportant, any age. ACA. I promise! Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 423035

SUE 38yrs enjoys most things, meals in/out, easygoing, broadminded, passionate, slightly feisty, looking for adult fun, call me if your interested in spicing things up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425587

NAUGHTY young 46yr old lady, outgoing and bubbly with a naughty side and lots of banter, WLTW chap 30+. If you are married even better. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box 424543

ROZ, 43, tactile, sensual, loves to dress up, and wear heels, seeks genuine caring male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425597

SARAH, 39yrs, married, seeking chap for no strings intimate moments. Special friendship, mutual respect. Give me a call. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 408291

KATHY 37, gorgeous mixed race single female, 5ft 8ins, slim, sensual, just looking for kind, trustworthy guy any age, looks or race. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425589

TAMIKKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422385

VIKKI 32yr old active female, confident, fit, loves night outs, looking for similar assertive male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425453

SUE, attractive genuine lady, own home, loves to spoil a man, give me a call or text. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424673

AMANDA, slim blonde, 50s seeks discreet gent for special times, mutually beneficial to both. Call now. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425327

WANTED gent 50-76 for cosy nights in, good times, call or text me, you won't be sorry, I'm attractive and have lots to offer. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425339

HELEN, mid 50's naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424493

ATTRACTION Caribbean lady 59yrs, very jolly and fun seeking gent any age who must love good times. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425323

ANDREA, 43, slim with long dark hair, blue eyes, loves to dance, seeks romantic man to share intimate moments in or out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425221

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JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like minded gent for nights in, days out and much more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424491

MELINDA, 52yrs, attractive and broad minded seeking chap any age for some fun. Couples also. Text only Mailbox: 4131946

SUE, 60s lady, calling all gents who seek a mature solvent stylish lady, I can wine and dine you, you will have a nice time, call or text me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424781

JOSIE, sexy black lady, 52yrs seeks adult times with concerning gent, any age, discreet clean, womanly figure. Text only Mailbox: 424592

JAN 41, fed up of sitting at home every weekend watching TV alone. Feel the same and looking for love! Please contact me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425497

ANNABELLE, sophisticated 28yrs hoping to meet older gent for adult fun, discreet, sincere, genuine advertiser. Text only Mailbox: 4157105

STACY 28yr old gorgeous brunette with buxom figure, intelligent and sensual, WLTW genuine male to get to know for fun dates and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425457

ALMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418117

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SARAH, 41, dizzy blonde, blue eyes, loves to dance seeks affectionate, hunky, fun male to make her laugh and brighten up her day. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425413

YOUNG looking Indian female, 40, enjoys meals in/out, good company and conversation, looking for likeminded male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425493

SHELLEY slim N/S 40's female who likes the simple things in life so no big gestures required, seeking local loving male for hopeful LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425253

SANDRA, smart, sophisticated lady young looking 60s, genuine and kind seeks gent with GSQH, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424671

MARY, professional mature lady, loves life, very sociable and fun, seeks gent for good conversation and happy times. All calls and texts answered. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424775

EILEEN mid 60s seeks gent 50s-60s for friendship, possibly much more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425341

LINDA, 48yrs attractive brunette seeks gent for laughing, winning dining. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425337

LOVING lady, romantic and tactile seeks like minded gent for special times, lets make each other feel special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425325

ATTRACTION Caribbean lady 59yrs, very jolly and fun seeking gent any age who must love good times. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425323

ANDREA, 43, slim with long dark hair, blue eyes, loves to dance, seeks romantic man to share intimate moments in or out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425221

CAROL, petite brunette, 38yrs, romantic, affectionate, outgoing, seeks similar sensual male for nice times together. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425395

LADY, looking for a mature, caring, loving gentleman, 55-70, to enjoy the finer things of life with and to be my best friend. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425309

JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTW interesting gent with GSQH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424675

KATHERINE, 28, tall, slim, dark, blue eyed female with many interests, OHAC, WLTW interesting male for dates, and more. Single deal welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425287

TRACY, 41, outgoing sun worshiper, OHAC, employed, looking for her Prince Charming to enjoy romantic holidays and good times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425257

SHARON 36yr old single mum looking for loving guy who will appreciate me and help repair my broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425283

ALMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418117

JULIE attractive 35yr old female with a great body, looking for no strings attached evening meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425037

MARY, passionate honest slim blue eyed blonde, 39yrs, likes nights in/out, looking for affectionate male, any age to spend adult fun times. Interested? call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425009

DONNA, 42, bright bubbly blue eyed blonde looking for someone to enjoy life and love to the full with. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424873

RETIRE happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459

SUZANNA, 45, lonely beautiful classy French lady looking for happy decent reliable very sexy man for lots of TLC and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424847

SARAH, young looking curvy 41yr old female, bored with everyday routines, WLTW up for some fun discreet and extremely broad minded younger male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424827

DEBBIE, 50, petite blonde looking for some fun and adventure with similar fun loving mature male. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424799

CALL or text me, I'm Claire, single, 41yrs loves life to the full, hoping you will contact me if you want a genuine fun time. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424779

SARAH, mature feminine lady, kind caring but still has a sensual side, hoping to meet like minded, confident, non smoking gent with GSQH, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424777

JANE 40s, blonde blue eyed petite build, WLTW understanding discreet tall, caring man for daytime meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424769

ANDREA, 43, slim with long dark hair, blue eyes, loves to dance seeks romantic man to share intimate moments in or out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424747

PROFESSIONAL lady, mid 40s, interests include gardening, theatre, walking, days out and travelling, animal lover, looking for a professional gentleman, kind and caring, intellectual and outgoing, with good, for friendship possibly more, in the Stafford area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424569

LOUISE, 40, elegant genuine blonde who's been hurt in the past seeks tall handsome male to be her Mr Right. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424261

CAROL, mid 50s lady, young at heart, attractive and sexy (so I'm told!) Give me a call if you are a gent with GSQH. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424783

THELMA, 59, slim, petite and Afro Caribbean, GSQH, trustworthy, honest and very caring, leave me your details if that sounds good to you! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425195

THAI female, 39, very beautiful, petite and self sufficient, loves cooking and home making, looking for caring, kind man/single deal. Please call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425191

CHRISTINE, 40, attractive slim sporty brunette seeks fit well built male. Call me let's see what the future brings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425061

LOUISE, 29, curvy red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425041

LYN, 47, curvy quiet sensitive brunette but with a wild side. It could be exciting to know me! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425013

KAREN, 47, an attractive blue eyed redhead, curvy size 16, likes films, football, pubs, reading, seeking likeminded male for nights in/out, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425057

JULIE attractive 35yr old female with a great body, looking for no strings attached evening meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425037

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LOUISE, 40, elegant genuine blonde who's been hurt in the past seeks tall handsome male to be her Mr Right. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424261

HI I'm Ellie, 39, pretty, funny, great figure, OHAC/child, have everything apart from a man, WLTW someone I wanna be with, not have to be. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424635

DIVORCED female, attractive, sensual by nature, OHAC, bored with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424591

PATRICIA, 50s, solvent female, tactile, fun, likes to travel, seeks tall, easygoing mature male to enjoy all the good things in life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424553

BARBARA, 36, slim blonde, likes music, sport, the outdoors, quiet nights in etc. WLTW kind honest gent to share interests and get to know me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424497

ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks male companion for nights out, dining, maybe more. ACA or text me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 42495

JULIE, 53yrs, tall, slim, dark haired lady, sociable and fun loving, new to the area so WLTW men friends for fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424497

TERRI, attractive young looking 29yrs, long legged sporty seeking nice man to fall in love with, up to 45yrs. If that's you pls call, we have nothing to lose. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424377

SEMI retired business man, early 60s, slim, well travelled, fit, tanned, good looking, solvent and very discreet. WLTW female, 35-55, for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425183

TALL, dark, attractive male, 57, WLTW an attractive female for discreet daytime fun, 25-50. Can travel. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425759

MALE, late 60s, medium build, 5ft10, n/s, car owner, likes meals out, holidays, walks, WLTW slim, attractive female who enjoys similar activities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425757

ATTRACTIVE Shrewsbury male, 50s, WLTW an attractive female, any age/status, for discreet daytime fun and excitement, aka. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422801

ADVENTUROUS 36 year old male, slim, dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235

GARY, 46, 5ft10, blue eyes, GSQH, likes football, quiet nights in, nights out, cinema, walking, travelling, looking for a likewise woman, 35-50, bubbly and fun loving with a GSQH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425441

I'm Andy, 52, looking for a lady, 50-65, for long term relationship, so text me and lets see what happens. Text only. Mailbox: 5396892

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419263

ATTRACTIVE male, 58, seeks adventurous female, 50-70, for close fun. Any status or size. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425335

DAN 46, easy going chap WLTW a lady 40+ for an uncomplicated discreet friendship with on strings fun. Discretion guaranteed. Text only. Mailbox: 5959608

WELL made broad male, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for some adult fun with lovely sexy lady, possible LTR or friends with benefits. Text only. Mailbox: 5321154

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419263

CHRISTIAN male 51, seeking Christian female, 35-45 for friendship, possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423747

MATURE male, 70s, tall, retired, recovering alcoholic, WLTW someone understanding, maybe in the same situation for friendship and mutual support. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425263

YOUNG looking 63 year old male, GSQH, friendly, considerate, attractive, looking for a naughty female, any age/status, for adult fun and friendship. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425243

IRISH gent, 66, GSQH, n/s, wishes to meet lady, North Birmingham area, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425269

JAMES, 59, 5ft11, average build, WLTW a Christian lady, 60-70, for companionship. Hope to hear from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425227

IRISH male, 62, 5ft 9ins, GSQH, independent, seeks genuine female for friendship initially. Birmingham area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403623

MALE 63, widower, Irish, GSQH, tall, independent, seeks special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409243

MALE 65, GSQH, seeks female for friendship and companions

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specialists at your service

aerials

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"I am extremely
happy with the
service I get from
my Express & Star
Classified Sales
Representative
and I would
recommend them
to anyone!"
Michael -
Portway Fencing.

"I am very pleased
with the response
I get from my
Classified
Advertising
Contract!"
Steve -
AA Digital Aerials

For great business
results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

**AA DIGITAL
AERIALS**
SATELLITE & CCTV
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857
VISA
CHECKATRADE.COM

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including:
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,
driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

building supplies

**QUALITY DOORS AND HARD-
WOOD FLOORING** @ low prices.
Call Arnold Road 0121 533 5428.

carpentry & joinery

B&S Joinery
Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted
from £350. External, Upvc, and fire doors.
All aspects of carpentry undertaken.
Family run 30 years experience
07958 552625, 0121 5322672

fencing

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"I am extremely
happy with the
service I get from
my Express & Star
Classified Sales
Representative
and I would
recommend them
to anyone!"
Michael -
Portway Fencing.

For great business
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4 Pets & Animals

ALL READERS are advised to
check if Horses have the required
Passport information.

For great business
results call
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ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

5 Business & Farming

**PORTWAY
FENCING**
SPECIAL OFFER
6 x 5 Heavy Duty Lap Panels
£12.95 each
Fitting service available on any.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

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CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS



"Thanks to
our Classified
advertising in the
Express & Star we
are really busy!
It definitely
works for us!"
Grinsells Skip Hire.

For great business
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guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that
they meet all necessary legal
requirements for owning and
using guns.

vets

Express & Star

**THIS SPACE
COULD BE
PROMOTING
YOUR
BUSINESS**

Every day our
customers get a
great response
from Classified
Advertising.

So could you by
calling our friendly
experienced Sales
Advisors on
01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

**business
opportunities**

**business
opportunities**

**business
opportunities**

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properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE
You agree the price, we buy the house.

● NO AGENTS FEES ● COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
● FREE SOLICITORS ● ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
0800 999 999 6
or 01384 226086 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

0800 999 999 6
or 01384 226086 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

CASH NOW

**FOR YOUR
HOUSE** ● Legal Fees Paid ● Guaranteed Offer ● We can buy your house in 2 days
● No Fees ● Repossessions Stopped
0800 389 6788 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week subject to terms

Need to sell your home fast? Purchase Agreed Within **7 DAYS**

We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
0121 405 0797 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"We have been advertising
in the Express & Star
and Chronicles for over
20 years and consider it a
key part of our business
with the regular flow
of calls, which our
advertising generates."
Black Country Homes

For great business results call
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BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

Classified Ads

7 Jobs

full time - general

WINDOW FABRICATORS required. Halesowen Area. Immediate start. Contact in first instance Tel: 0121 555 9940

part time - general

TRAVEL CONSULTANT REQUIRED. Must be experienced. Minimum 2 days per week. Contact Courtney Travel on 0121 561 2331 or email courtneysb@aol.co.uk

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BARGAIN

CITROEN C4 1.6SX

08 reg, 45,000 miles, hatchback, 8 months MoT, Grey, 5dr, auto transmission, excellent condition.

£2,150 ono
07872 328468.



FIAT GRANDE PUNTO

2007, 1.4 Sport, 73,000 miles, 5 door, abs, electric windows, full MoT, part history, 2 owners, 2 keys.

£1,700.
07538 750391.

FORD C-MAX 2010, 1.8L D 30k miles, black, fish, parking sensors, excellent car. Well looked after. MOT 7/17. £4,995 07905 530573

FORD FOCUS 1.6 GHIA

2006, 28,000 miles, light blue, usual extras, £1,695 ono. 01902 673028



HONDA JAZZ

2009, 51,000 miles, blue, MoT, excellent condition, 1 previous owner, service history, new car forces sale.

£3,300.
07748 304733.

PRESTIGE

MERCEDES SL350 AUTOMATIC CONVERTIBLE

54 reg, 74,000 miles, FSH, Obsidian Black, with cream leather, keyless go, power hood, panoramic glass roof, anti roll bar wind deflector, alloys, sat nav, Xenon lights, 2 keys. Absolutely pristine. £9,999.

07836 204450 or 07545 601552.

GOOD RUNNER

MINI ONE
1400cc, 2007, silver.
Black interior.
62,000 miles.
MoT June 2017.
£2,300.
07814 447682.

NISSAN MICRA ACTIVE

58 reg, 80,000 miles, black, automatic, one owner, 12 months MoT, 5 door, alloy wheels, full service history, excellent condition.
£2,500 ono.
01562 746913.

IMMACULATE

SUZUKI SWIFT

66 plate.
Low mileage.
Red with black lines on roof.
Excellent condition.
£10,500.
07951 664184.

BARGAIN

VAUXHALL CORSA

1.2, 08 reg, 60,000 miles, MoT,

£2,750 ono.
07935 030675.



VAUXHALL ZAFIRA CLUB
2006 Model // 7 seats, 50,200 Miles, Silver, ABS, Front Electric Windows, Air Bag, Air Con, MOT, Central Locking, Cruise Control, Tax, Alloys, Stereo, CD
£2,995
07468 482728

BARGAIN

VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GT

5dr, 2011, immaculate condition, low mileage, 52,800 miles (cam belt replaced at 51,833 miles), 12 months MoT, FSH, last serviced 16.11.16. Alarm, immobiliser, alloy wheels, CD player, PAS, front and back fog lights, front and rear parking sensors, CL.

£6,950 ono.
07817 073369.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Diverstments (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertise-ments must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

FIAT PUNTO
2006.
81,000 miles.
12 months MoT.
Very tidy.
Drives brilliant.

£1,100 ono.
07970 174138.

BARGAIN

MAZDA 323
5dr hatchback, petrol, 2003 silver, only 74,000 miles, 2 former keepers, needs a little welding for MoT, excellent running, clean and tidy inside and out.
Spares or repairs £375.
01902 262001 or 07928 679949.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

MGF SOFT TOP
2000 plate.
Very low miles.
Long MoT.
Service History.
Excellent condition.
£895 ono.
07729 692827.

PEUGEOT 307 1.4

Petrol, 104+ miles, 05, MoT February 2017, four new tyres, very good condition inside and out, lady owner, very good runner and reliable

£550 o.n.o.
07515 770277.



ROVER 211
2000, 26,000 miles, red, air bag, fish, alarm, long MoT, tax, Stereo, 2 owners from new.
£750 ono.
01384 355969.

MUST BE SEEN

ROVER 75 2.0 DIESEL
2002, 11 months MoT, 2 owners from new with fish, low guaranteed mileage for year, 18in MG alloys with four new tyres plus four original Rover alloys with good tyres, very nice and well looked after vehicle, regrettable sale due to unexpected Christmas present.
£1,450.
07773 354042.

BARGAIN

ROVER 75 CONNOISSEUR
12 months MoT,
58,000 miles,
immaculate condition.
£700 o.n.o.
07946 302693.

MUST BE SEEN

VW POLO 1400

Full MoT, silver, good runner / condition inside and out, radio/CD, alloys.

£675 ono.
01902 862610.

classic cars

CLASSIC CAR

FORD ESCORT
1997, classic insurance, full MoT, very clean and tidy, 76,000 miles from new,
£325 o.n.o.
07936 282473.

WANTED, CLASSIC CARS. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 482797.

commercial vehicles

CITROEN BERLINO 1.9 diesel, MoT Sept, new brakes, new timing belt, any trial, £550 ono. 07952 931031.

FORD TRANSIT 1 reg, very clean and tidy, 12 months MoT, CD player, £695 ono. 07584 191793.

PEUGEOT PARTNER diesel Van, 2003, 10 months MoT, well main, company owned. £650. 07397 956377.

motorbikes

HONDA C90 CUB Wanted anything considered, must be good condition, private buyer. Telephone 07966 701025.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

FLORENCE EDITH TAYLOR (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Allenbrook Nursing Home 209 Spies Lane Halesowen West Midlands B62 9SJ, who died on 30/12/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 07/04/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

SUE 38yrs enjoys most things, meals in/out, easygoing, broadminded, passionate, slightly feisty, looking for adult fun, call me if your interested in spicing things up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425587

NAUGHTY curvy 46yr old lady, outgoing and bubbly with a naughty side and lots of banter, WILTM chap 30+. If you are married even better. AKA. Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box 425453

ROZ, 43, tactile, sensual, loves to dress up, and wear heels, seeks genuine caring male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425597

SARAH, 39yrs, married, seeking chap for no strings intimate times. Special friendship, mutual respect. Give me a call. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 408291

TAMKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. AKA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365

JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like minded gent for nights in, days out and much much more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424491

MELINDA, 52yrs, attractive and broad minded seeking chap any age for some fun. Couples also. Text only Mailbox: 4131946

SUE, 60s lady, calling all gents who seek a mature soulstyish lady. I can wine and dine you, you will have a nice time, call or text me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424781

SHARON 36yr old single mum looking for loving guy who will appreciate me and help repair my broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425283

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks fun in life so no big gestures required, seeking loyal loving male for hopeful LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425253

KAREN, 47, an attractive blue eyed redhead, curvy size 16, likes films, football, pubs, reading, seeking like-minded male for nights in/out, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425057

GENTLEMAN 5ft 5in, 74, wishes to meet lady 50-75 for friendship possible relationship. Sandwell and surrounding areas. Photo appreciated and returned.
Box Number P20683, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WY1 1ES.

MEET SEXY local women, genuine adult contacts fast and discreet. Call 0330 022 6244/07008 02634

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Express & Star

DATING

Here's how to use your dating service ...
To Place your advert call: 0844 381 5936
Simply text REG followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to 09064. FREE Standard Network cover apply. **or E10 SMS CHAT CREDIT**

YOU can now Date ONLINE or via your mobile just visit:
<http://dating.expressandstar.com>

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet you.. visit.. <http://dating.expressandstar.com>

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

SARA, 43, educated, independent, attractive, female, nervous about dating through advertising, so pls don't disappoint me by not replying. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425703

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. AKA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

JEAN, 40, 5ft slim, busty blonde, not to dating and fed up of going through the pub scene, WILTM down to earth male for adult company. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425671

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters AKA. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

MICHELLE, 34, blonde blue eyed happy female, loves heels and being feminine, OHAC, self sufficient, looking for male for long term romance and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425669

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

FEMALE, 66 yrs old, looks young, loves to laugh, n/s, who is genuine, caring and just wants to be loved again. Text only. Mailbox: 5750819

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. AKA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

MARIE, very attractive curvy widow, longing for romance, seeking guy trying loving male with old fashioned values for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425599

HI Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely brunette, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. AKA. I promise! Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 423035

SUE 38yrs enjoys most things, meals in/out, easygoing, broadminded, passionate, slightly feisty, looking for adult fun, call me if your interested in spicing things up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425587

HELEN, mid 50's naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age. AKA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424493

CAROL petite brunette, 38yrs, romantic, affectionate, outgoing, seeks similar sensual male for nice times together. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425395

LADY, looking for a mature, caring, loving gentleman, 55-70, to enjoy the finer things of life with and to be my best friend. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425308

JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WILTM if you are with GSOH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424675

KATHERINE, 28, tall, slim, dark, blue eyed female with many interests, OHAC, WILTM interesting male for dates, and more. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425287

TRACY, 41, outgoing sun worshiper, OHAC, employed, looking for her Prince Charming to enjoy romantic holidays and good times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 41817

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10 Personals

personal

ATtractive lonely Female seeking broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 489 181.

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YOU can now Date ONLINE or via your mobile just visit:
<http://dating.expressandstar.com>

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet you.. visit.. <http://dating.expressandstar.com>

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JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WILTM if you are with GSOH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424675

KATHERINE, 28, tall, slim, dark, blue eyed female with many interests, OHAC, WILTM interesting male for dates, and more. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425287

TRACY, 41, outgoing sun worshiper, OHAC, employed, looking for her Prince Charming to enjoy romantic holidays and good times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 41817

SHARON 36yr old single mum looking for loving guy who will appreciate me and help repair my broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425283

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks fun in life so no big gestures required, seeking loyal loving male for hopeful LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425253

KAREN, 47, an attractive blue eyed redhead, curvy size 16, likes films, football, pubs, reading, seeking like-minded male for nights in/out, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425057

GENTLEMAN 5ft 5in, 74, wishes to meet lady 50-75 for friendship possible relationship. Sandwell and surrounding areas. Photo appreciated and returned.
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10 Personals

personal

ATtractive lonely Female seeking broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 489 181.

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Prius is an all-round winner in UK awards



Seven trophies in the bag in just its first few months on sale

The new Toyota Prius has enjoyed great success in the annual awards season, amassing seven trophies and titles during its first few months on sale.

Notably the honours are not limited to environmental performance, but reflect the fourth generation Prius's all-round excellence.

The UK Car of the Year judges set the seal on Prius's winning qualities, naming it Best Family Car – an accolade that qualifies it for a place in the overall car of the year competition at the end of January.

For Carbuyer, the hybrid hatchback saw off all comers in its search for the Best Economical Car, while What Car? considered the Toyota to be the safest model among the market's large family cars.

Prius's advanced driver, passenger and pedestrian protection features and the active systems included in its Toyota Safety Sense package – fitted as standard – also helped it secure the highest scores for a large family car in Euro NCAP's 2016 rigorous, independent test programme.

At the same time as Prius has excelled in these areas – all of them important considerations for customers – it has maintained its reputation as a leader in performance that's kinder to the environment, delivering lower emissions and better fuel economy than any of its predecessors since the original model was launched in Japan 20 years ago.

Its status has been recognised by Auto Express, which handed it its Green Award.

The international Women's World Car of the Year judges also named it Green Car of the Year and Telegraph Cars accorded it the title of Best Eco-Car.

Paul Van der Burgh, Toyota GB president and managing director, said: "The reception for new Prius has been exceptional and we are immensely grateful for the awards the car has received.

"The breadth of success and the comments made by many respected and independent judges demonstrate how Prius is fulfilling our commitment to make ever-better cars."

Launch of the 2017 young writer award



Part of the prize is a tutored drive at Mercedes-Benz World

Do you love writing (or talking) about cars? Would you like to kickstart a career as a motoring writer? How about £1000 in travel vouchers and other great motoring prizes?

The Midland Group of Motoring Writers has announced details of the 2017 Phil awards for budding motoring journalists.

If you're aged between 12 and 18 and love writing or talking about cars, it's your chance to make a name for yourself with leading UK car journalists and win some great prizes.

The Phil award (for all entrants, aged between 12 and 18) includes £1000 in travel vouchers and the loan of an Audi of your choice for your parents for a week; plus a tour of the Aston Martin plant at Gaydon, Warwickshire and a passenger ride with one of the company's test drivers.

The Junior Phil award (for entrants up-to 16) is a visit to Mercedes-Benz World at Brooklands, Surrey for a tutored drive and lunch for yourself and your parents. If you're aged up to 16 and good enough, you could win the lot.

Entrants will need to tell a story about cars and travel which entertains the judges. They'll be looking for creativity and the ability to use the chosen medium to best effect.

The topic for the story is 'my perfect car and the journey I'd take in it' and entries can be in any journalistic format, including electronic media.

The closing date for entries is February 28, 2017.

You can find full details of the awards on the MGWM website at: www.mgwm.org.uk



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 11/60 BMW 1 Series 118d M Sport Diesel Convertible White, Alloys, Half Leather, Air Con, E/Windows, Parking Sensors £10495	 10/10 Skoda Fabia 1.9 TDi Sport 60k, Mauve with White Roof, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £4995
 10/10 Ford S-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec Diesel Automatic 7 Seater, 41k, Grey, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, Parking Sensors £10495	 07/07 Honda Civic 1.8 i-VTEC ES 5dr with Panoramic Roof, ONLY 47k miles, Blue, Alloys, Push Button Start, Air Con, CD, Dual Climate, E/Windows £4995
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Finance example: 07/07 Honda Civic 1.8 i-VTEC ES 5dr, Cash Price £4495, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4195, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 monthly Payments of £99.60 (£22.98 per week) Total amount payable £6276.00 (Includes Document fee and Completion fee, Subject to status)

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expressandstar.com/drivetime

New life breathed into latest Micra

By James Parker

Let's face it, the last Nissan Micra wasn't exactly a big hit in the UK market.

It was a bit too quirky compared with previous generations and what had been the first-car staple of so many young drivers became the reserve of the older generation.

Nissan has breathed a new lease of life into the latest Micra, though, bringing it into line with the rest of its product range and offering segment firsts on the safety and technology fronts. It's been redesigned from the ground up to offer far better driving performance, plus the combination of standard safety options, improved driving aids and tech developments.

It is also available with must-have extras such as Apple CarPlay integration and high-quality Bose headrest speakers.

When it comes to looks, the fifth-generation Micra has certainly improved and is likely to win favour with those looking for a stylish but practical alternative to the traditional cars on the market. It's been given that instantly recognisable Nissan chrome 'V' around the badge and an overall much sleeker look.

It's clear that the target market for Micra is younger drivers and Nissan is hoping to capture the attention of this audience with its new customisation options. There are three levels for this, covering the exterior and interior, meaning buyers have 125 options to choose from and ensure their car stands out.

Focus on interior quality has been drastically improved. Here the Micra really sets itself apart from rivals, with soft flowing lines across the dash, built with soft-touch materials.

The new Micra has a longer wheelbase



Looks, the drive and the economy

than ever, and that means more legroom for all occupants. This is another way that Nissan has challenged rivals, as it's moving away from a cramped supermini to a small hatchback. With five doors and a reasonable boot it would be appealing for any family with young children.

The doors open nice and wide too which makes this a great option for getting in and out of, especially if you're trying to get a child in the back. However, the door openings themselves aren't that big and you'll have to bend over quite considerably.

The Micra is kitted out with lane departure assistance, emergency braking, traffic sign recognition and blind spot warning, meaning you get a really comprehensive range of driving assistance for such a small car. This is standard on the top-spec Tekna but you'll have to pay extra for it if you opt for a lower grade.

The Nissan Micra is available with two engine options at launch – a 0.9-litre turbocharged petrol and a 1.5-litre diesel –



NISSAN MICRA, FROM £11,995

The new Nissan Micra is finally a great alternative to the staples of the small hatchback market

both producing 89bhp. From March, when the car goes on sale, there will be a 1.0-litre naturally aspirated engine, producing 74bhp, coming to the UK but details are limited. Currently, it's only available with a five-speed manual gearbox.

According to Nissan, the 0.9-litre petrol engine will achieve 64.2mpg and produce 99g/km of CO2 with stop-start fitted. Its diesel

counterpart will do 88mpg while producing 85g/km of CO2. It will achieve 0 – 60mph in 11.9 seconds with the petrol engine, continuing to 109mph, while the diesel will go marginally faster to 60mph in 11.7 seconds, reaching 111mph. The Nissan Micra is a pretty pokey little car to drive in both petrol and diesel guises, although you'll get marginally more out of the little turbo petrol.

The new Nissan Micra is finally a great alternative to the staples of the small hatchback market. It's got the looks, the drive and the economy to become a serious rival worth considering. Take into account the infotainment options available and it makes an extremely strong argument for itself to those not particularly concerned about an inspiring driving experience.

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Mickael Partodikromo during training sessions at Wolverhampton University's Walsall Campus, Gorway Road, for Rushall Olympic, whom he joined in the summer



Partodikromo's immediate goal is to help Rushall win promotion

Mickael Pics his side in bid for football dream

HOW far would you go to chase a dream? In Mickael Partodikromo's case, the answer is about 11,000 miles.

Partodikromo comes from New Caledonia, a little-known collection of islands owned by France and located in the southwest Pacific Ocean, between Australia and New Zealand. For the past six years he has been trying to make it as a professional footballer, first in New Zealand, then France and now in England, his journey taking in stops at Swansea, Chelsea, Bolton, Sheffield United and, now Rushall Olympic.

Clearly, Partodikromo is not your average non-league footballer, or indeed your average 21-year-old. Well-spoken and polite, he has the kind of maturity and quiet assurance which can probably only be achieved by spending four years away from your family, growing up on the other side of the world.

Partodikromo has not seen his parents for two years and says he won't return home until he has fulfilled his ambitions.

Spotted

"My parents support me a lot but I tell them not to call me too often," he says. "I know if they do, it will only make me homesick. To make the dream happen, you have to make sacrifices."

Football, Partodikromo says, had been a central part of his life long before he was spotted by a scout and invited to join the Asia-Pacific Football Academy in Wellington, New Zealand.

He left home, alone, aged just 14 and only versed at that point in French and Kunie, a language native to New Caledonia.

"For the first three weeks in New Zealand I couldn't understand a word anyone was saying," laughs Partodikromo, who now speaks English so fluently you would never guess it was ever a problem.

Two years at the academy was followed by the offer

SPORTING FEATURE

By Matt Maher

"At home in winter it is 21 or 22 degrees. Over here it is zero degrees! Before I came to England, I had never seen snow!"

of a trial at Swansea. "I went there by myself, I was 16 and stayed in digs," he says.

"It was hard," he admits. "Adapting to the weather and things like that. At home in winter it is 21 or 22 degrees. Over here it is zero degrees! Before I came to England, I had never seen snow! It was something I just had to get used to."

The trial at Swansea was followed by another at Chelsea and then Bolton before, in 2013, Partodikromo was offered a scholarship at Sheffield United. Though it did not end in the offer of a professional deal, the confidence gained from two years at Bramall Lane convinced Partodikromo to remain in Europe to continue chasing his dream.

After a brief spell at Worcester City in pre-season, where he played in a friendly against Villa, he joined Rushall in September.

"It's a friendly club and everyone has been very nice to me," he says. "I enjoy the football. It is physical and different to what I am used to but I hope it will make me fitter and stronger."

Partodikromo lives alone, having recently moved to Walsall from Sheffield. "I do my own everything, I take care of myself," he says. "I have gotten used to it, moving from home from such an early age. It's fine."

He adds: "When I tell them where I am from, people have no idea where it is. I have to show them on the phone. They can't believe it."

The obvious question, however, is exactly how he is managing to get by on football earnings alone?

"I saved up some money from when I was living in France and I get a bit of money from Rushall," he says. "Then, sometimes, if I really need something, mum and dad will help me, though I don't ask very often."

There is an added warmth in his voice when he speaks about his dad Bernard's work as a pharmacist, or the cooking lessons from mum Sabine which have helped him fend for himself half a world away.

Footsteps

It is the desire to repay their faith, their willingness for him to take the chance which gets him through the disappointments, the setbacks and the cold nights.

Partodikromo wants to follow in the footsteps of France World Cup-winner Christian Karembeu, by some distance New Caledonia's most famous export, and be an inspiration to others on the islands.

"I want to give back to my parents all they have done for me," he said. "We have a big family back home and my country is not famous."

"I want to repay them and be an inspiration for the children, an example for them to follow. A lot of them get in trouble in early age but I want to be able to show them what is possible, to push them the other way."

Partodikromo's immediate goal for the Pics this season is to earn a regular starting place and help the club win promotion from Evo-Stik Northern Premier Division.

The larger dream, meanwhile, remains alive. There is, he insists, no deadline, no point at which he might have to reconsider his goals. "No, no, no, I can't think like that," he says with a smile. "It's going to happen. I am positive about that."



The New Caledonian island paradise, 11,000 miles away, that Partodikromo left behind to pursue his footballing dream - before pitching up at Rushall as part of his journey



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Run extends as star two on the move

Stourbridge 2 Marine 0
STOURBRIDGE overcame the loss of star defender Dan Scarr to move into the Evo-Stik League Premier Division play-off places on Saturday.

The 22-year-old said his goodbyes to his Glassboys team-mates ahead of sealing a move to Championship Birmingham. Scarr has signed a two-and-a-half-year deal for an undisclosed fee.

Boss Gary Hackett said: "We are all thrilled for Dan. He's a great lad and he deserves this chance. He's been so consistent in his performances. I can't speak highly enough of him."

Fellow defender Kristian Green is also on the move, moving two steps up the non-league pyramid after agreeing a transfer to Solihull Moors.

Chairman Andy Pountney said: "We're sorry to lose Kristian. He's been a really consistent performer for us in his 18 months at the club."

On Saturday, Jordan Archer's pair of close-range headers from crosses by Stuart Pierpoint and Luke Benbow late in the first half decided an uneventful contest in which Marine were happy to sit back and stifle.

The win stretched Stour's unbeaten league record to 12 matches, moving Hackett's men into the top five for the first time this season.

"Bearing in mind we have lost two very strong defenders, we showed strength and power," said Hackett. "Stuart Pierpoint played very well last season but has had to be patient. He has done a great job since coming back in and while I know Chris Knight can play anywhere, I also know he can be a great left-back. At the same time, we have some very good flair players as well."

"We won't bring in people for the sake of it. It might not happen straight away but it could, we have irons in the fire."

Strike duo Luke Benbow and Jordan Archer each bagged a brace as Stourbridge overpowered Mickleover Sports 4-0 last Tuesday.

Improving side get the better of Yeltz

Ashton Utd 2 Halesowen 1
DESPITE a battling performance, Halesowen lost to an improving Ashton United side, who have now won three home games in a row in the Evo-Stik Premier.

The Yeltz brought in two loan signings in the week from Nuneaton Town - Jordan Wheatley and Cash Wallace - who both started on the bench, along with Kartel O'Neill-Martin, who has been promoted from the youth team.

All the goals came in the opening half, with Ashton taking the lead in 12 minutes when Matt Chadwick crossed and Ryan Crowther found himself with an easy chance to make it 1-0.

Danny Bragoli got the Yeltz back on terms in 17 minutes.

Just before the half-hour mark, Ashton went ahead again through Dominic Smalley, who neatly finished after setting himself up for a shot.

A scrambled effort from Halesowen on 36 minutes was headed on to the Ashton bar by a defender as the visitors pressed for the rest of the half.

Lee Chilton saw an effort from substitute Ethan Delaney's cross go wide.

Student nets place in national squad



Kaitlin Willets

A DUDLEY College student has been selected for the AoC National Netball squad after impressing during a two-day trial.

After competing against 80 other students from across the country for 20 places, Kaitlin Willets, aged 17, secured her spot, becoming the only student from the West Midlands to be selected.

Her success means that she will be heading to Gateshead, Belfast, Glasgow, Nottingham and Cardiff to train and play matches.

Netball

Willets is currently studying a BTEC Level 3 in sports coaching but still manages to play for Gornal-based Libra Lea Netball Club in the Regional and Walsall Leagues and also represents the West Midlands Regional Under-17 team.

Willets' coach at Libra Lea, Sally Bromley, was full of praise for the teenager, saying: "She is doing unbelievably well to balance netball,

college and work. It is really tough for the girls, so it is amazing she is managing to do it as well as she is."

Bromley also discussed how important it is for Willets to choose her university based on not only her education, but also their netball teams.

She said: "University is an important step for Kaitlin."

"It has the possibility of giving her a much larger platform to potentially be picked up from. She has a lot of potential, so hopefully she can realise it."

HALES SUFFER HOME DEFEAT

THERE was a disappointing result at home for Old Hales first team. The 34-8 defeat to Peterborough Lions continues the run of losses for the start of 2017.

With the second team's match at Bromsgrove being called off late in the week it fell to the thirds to raise spirits with a convincing win against Bromsgrove 3rds by 38 to 17.

However the fourth team didn't fare so well against Telford 3rds, who ran in 55 points to win the day.

Both the second and third teams had fixtures planned against Bromsgrove. However, Bromsgrove seconds cried off late in the week. As a result both playing squads for the thirds' game were a mix of second and third team players.

Mauled

The first 20 minutes was closely fought with both sides defending well. Old Hales broke the deadlock when Matt Williams made a short well-timed pass to Josh Woodward and he broke through from 40m out to score. Billy Taylor added the conversion.

Bromsgrove fought back and following a penalty kick to touch, took a clean ball at the lineout and mauled their way over the line for an unconverted try.

Williams continued to be influential and another short pass allowed left wing Dan Smith to breach the Bromsgrove defence 45 metres out and then continued a determined run to score under the posts. Taylor slotted over the conversion.

Alex Eccles was the next to score, with Taylor again adding the extras.

Scott Rudge took the final score of the half. Old Hales were on the front foot from the off after the break and Callum Weston scored a try.

Bromsgrove regrouped and scored two tries in quick succession to reduce the deficit to 31-17. A penalty try and Taylor conversion completed the scoring.

The fourth team were beaten 55-17 by Telford 3rds. Dan Pardoe scored a try and Matt Wagstaff a try, two conversions and a penalty.

Stepping out before big fight



From left, Connor Parker, Brad Foster, Lennox Clarke and Josh Stokes at the Banks's

HALESOWEN boxer Lennox Clarke trod the Banks's Stadium turf ahead of topping the bill at the Walsall FC venue next month.

The super middleweight will headline Errol Johnson's four-fight 'Battleground' bill on February 17.

Three other fighters, Lichfield flyweight Brad Foster, Swadlincote super lightweight Connor Parker and West Bromwich light heavyweight Josh Stokes, joined him in making a half-time appearance during the Saddlers' 3-1 win over Bristol Rovers.

The quartet handed out certificates to Walsall's Academy Players of the Month from under-9s to under-16s. Baggies fan Clarke said: "I

enjoy fighting at Walsall. It's a good venue and the fans are close to the action. I always get a good reception from the football fans too."

Clarke tops the bill in an eight-round contest against 28-year-old Pole Bartimiej Gaftka.

Foster takes part in a six round contest, though scheduled opponent Brett Fidoe is no longer available. Parker steps in against former English title challenger Liam Richards, while Stokes, brother of unbeaten middleweight Tom, will debut at light heavyweight against Lincoln's Mitch Mitchell.

Standard tickets are £35, available by calling the boxers, or £60 VIP tickets for tables of 10, with two-course meal. Call 01922 651 414/416.

Winner not troubled but silver claimed

IT may have been another weekend and another muddy field to run round for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club but rather than continuing the relegation battle in the league the blue hoops had the opportunity to race in the Midlands Masters Cross Country Championships.

With the league races on the back burner until next month this was effectively a cup game and like many cup games DK fielded a weakened side.

With the race only open to runners over 35 years of age it was a case of experience over youth with DK fielding a single team of three runners in the M45 category.

With the race taking place at Aldersley Stadium in Wolverhampton the trio didn't have too far to travel but this was the third weekend in succession that the venue had hosted a cross country race and the ground over the 8k course was decidedly poached, rutted and muddy but with some imaginative course planning the organisers were able to miss out the worst parts over the four-lap course.

Although the DK runners were never in a position to trouble the winner, the recent Shropshire County champion and England international, Paul Ward of Telford AC who romped home unopposed in 27.48 the blue hoops performed well with Darran Bishop coming home in 25th place in 33.21, Dave Norman finished in 34.20 to take 29th place and Mark Homer brought the team home in 32nd position in 35.37 pocketing an individual bronze medal in the M55 age group.

DK claimed a team silver medal sandwiched between the local heavyweights Tipton Harriers who took the gold medal and Wolverhampton & Bilston who bagged the bronze.

Hughes is gunning for best pal 'Duzza'

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes has new world champion Glen Durrant in his sights after staying with the BDO.

Hughes reached the semi-finals for the second year running at the Lakeside but was downed 6-1 by Durrant, his best friend, who then beat Danny Noppert to secure his first world title.

Durrant, the BDO No 1, has not been offered an automatic Pro Tour card for the PDC, while Hughes has opted out of the organisation's Qualifying School.

The 30-year-old said: "I'll be working on my game now to make sure I give him a much harder game next time. I've got to get my head back on and improve."

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